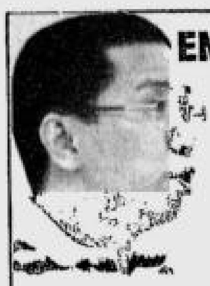


ENTERTAINMENT / F4

The indie roundtable talks

SPORTS / A23

RP's Illam Central settles for 2nd in World Series

BUSINESS / B1

Local investors lost P6.4 billion in forex scam

Is this week your chance to say YES?

Market crash hits big, small investors alike

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

IN A TUMBLING MARKET, SIZE REALLY doesn't matter.

All investors, whether big or small, suffer in a free-falling market.

Edison Bacani, 50, a small investor in the local stock market, has been buying and

MARKET/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, August 20, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 253 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

He gambled on credit time bomb and won

ALL THROUGH LAST YEAR, JIM Melcher saw the signs of a rapidly deteriorating American housing market—riskier mortgages, rising delinquencies and more homes falling into foreclosure. And with $100 million in assets at his hedge fund, Balestra Capital, he was in a position to do something about it.

HE GAMBLED/ A4

Bishop rues waste of lives in Basilan

EDWIN BACASMAS

"I DO NOT KNOW the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death. They died unquestioning." These words of the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur may well refer to these five young military officers slain in clashes with the Abu Sayyaf bandits on Saturday.

But AFP says war will go on

By Nikko Dizon, Christian V. Esguerra, Christine O. Avendaño and Julie S. Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao*

LAMENTING THE LATEST military deaths in Basilan as senseless and a waste of lives, Church and congressional leaders yesterday added their voices to the mounting clamor for an end to the government's all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf, but the military vowed to pursue the attacks without letup.

A nationwide organization of Catholic religious orders—the Associa-

BISHOP/ A10

15 Marines were 'sitting ducks' to Abu Sayyaf

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE 15 MARINES killed in the latest military debacle on Basilan island were on a test mission as part of their training in close quarters combat, and were mowed down "like sitting ducks" by the Abu Sayyaf after ignoring their guides' advice on what trail to follow, according to officials.

One of the officials said the Marines might have survived had they listened to their guide's instructions on how to approach the Abu Sayyaf lair.

A senior Army officer told the INQUIRER the five junior officers and 10 enlisted personnel killed on Saturday were considered "students" of the Force Reconnaissance Company (FRCoy Class 13) who were completing their training in close quarters combat.

"It was just a test mission," said the Army officer, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitive position he holds.

This was confirmed by Task Force Thunder chief Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, who said the soldiers were part of six teams composed of eight men and an officer which were completing the course.

The military claimed it killed up to 42 Abu Sayyaf men in Saturday's fighting in the Basilan municipality of Unkaya Pukan.

Unkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan,

15 MARINES/ A10

Is DepEd critic barking up the wrong tree?

By Fernando del Mundo

ANTONIO CALIPJO GO HAS DONE IT again.

On Aug. 13, the Department of Education critic put out a full-page ad in the INQUIRER to blast away at errors he had uncovered in DepEd's social studies textbooks published with World Bank financing and issued this year to public elementary schools.

The blunders were so ludicrous and laughable they read like items in Mad magazine.

He also looked at the Errata Guide issued by the DepEd to correct the errors after some anonymous soul delivered the leaflet to the Marian School in Quezon City, which he owns and serves as academic supervisor.

IS DEPED/ A6

EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Changes at top too often

By Beverly T. Natividad

(First of three parts)

I-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

RECENT CHANGES IN THE CABINET have sparked speculation that a new secretary will be named to the Department of Education (DepEd), where critics say frequent leadership turnover accounts for the sad state of the country's education system.

Over the past six years under President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, no one has stayed long enough at DepEd to do a thorough job of cleaning up a veritable Aegean stables of Greek mythology.

"The DepEd needs continuing leadership," says Dinky Soliman, a former social welfare secretary who joined a mass resignation in the Arroyo Cabinet during the "Hello Garci" controversy in 2005.

"Whoever is at the helm will not be able to do justice to the job if he or she stays for a short time," Soliman says.

Jesli Lapus, named education secretary in August 2006, is the fifth person to head the DepEd since Ms Arroyo became President in 2001.

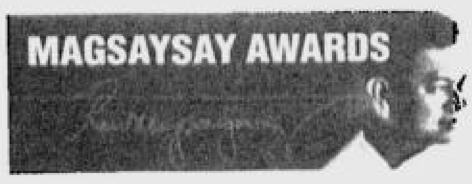
Rumors of yet another change in leadership have prompted a protest from the DepEd's National Employees Union (NEU).

NEU president Domingo B. Alidon suspects that the continuing controversy over error-filled textbooks and the alleged scandalous manner some publishing houses are cornering printing contracts year in and year out are behind the rumors.

But in fact the textbook procurement

LEADERSHIP/ A6

Chung To: A rising star changes course



MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

Chung To (far left), 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership, comforts children who had lost a parent to AIDS.

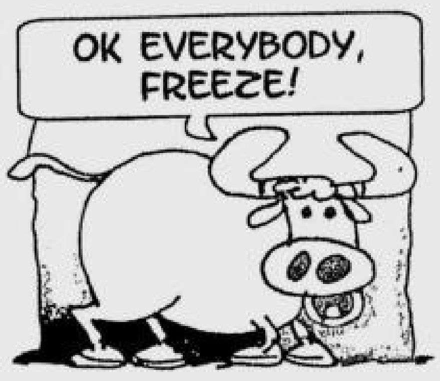
By EK Santos

CHUNG TO WAS ONLY 28 WHEN his investment bank in New York assigned him to Hong Kong to expand the Asia market. He was to be associate director of the Swiss investment bank in Hong Kong—not a bad career move for this business graduate of Columbia University with a master's degree in East Asian Studies from Harvard.

He was definitely a young star on the rise. Little did Chung To know that his return to Hong Kong, his birthplace, would actually steer him toward an entirely new and

CHUNG TO/ A5

NINOY REMEMBERED
A worker spruces up the statue of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in Makati City ahead of the 24th anniversary of his assassination. RUDY ESPERAS


OK EVERYBODY, FREEZE!

Hundreds pose naked on shrinking glacier

ALETSCH GLACIER, SWITZERLAND—Hundreds of people posed naked on Switzerland's shrinking Aletsch glacier on Saturday for US photographer Spencer Tunick as part of a Greenpeace campaign to raise awareness of global warming.

Tunick, perched on a ladder and us-

HUNDREDS/ A5

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/08/19/07 SOURCE PAGASA

CLOUD SEEDING RESTARTED

Despite 'Egay,' dry spell persists

By Tarra Quismundo

DESPITE THE HEAVY RAINS DUMPED BY TYPHOON "EGAY," THE dry spell still persists in some parts of the country, particularly Region II.

Thus, the Philippine Air Force has resumed cloud-seeding operations in the mountain-buffered region as the area remains in dire need of water.

The cloud-seeding is expected to benefit the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino which had been spared the stormy weather brought over the rest of Luzon by successive typhoons Chedeng, Dodong and Egay.

The region's topography which is dominated by towering peaks and mountain ranges has kept the abundant rains in neighboring provinces like La Union and Mountain Province from crossing over its boundaries.

The dry spell, however, has ended in Region I, Cordillera Administrative Region, Region III and Metro Manila, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Pagasa said widespread rains would fall over extreme northern Luzon and the western section of northern and Central Luzon today.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, on the other hand, will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Over the weekend, military rainmakers were sent back to Cauayan, Isabela, after weather monitors on the ground determined the need to resume cloud-seeding operations in the area, a pilot dispatched on the mission confirmed yesterday.

After a four-day layover at PAF headquarters at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, a seeding team flew back to Isabela on Saturday afternoon on board an N22-C Nomad on the Department of Agriculture's request to continue rainmaking over Magat Dam.

"When we got here, the DA advised that we target clouds over Magat Dam. That's our concentration right now," said 1st Lt. Ramil Daet, co-pilot of the rainmaking plane that had been assigned to seed clouds over Isabela since late last month

The PAF rainmaking team, including two pilots, flight crew and weather officers, were sent back to Isabela as soon as the weather in Manila was clear enough for flight.

The team's Nomad had been grounded at the Villamor while Egay brought inclement weather and poor visibility to the skies over Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

The Cauayan team earlier completed close to 12 hours of cloud-seeding flights from July 28 up to last week, when it had to suspend the rainmaking mission for a medical emergency flight to Manila.

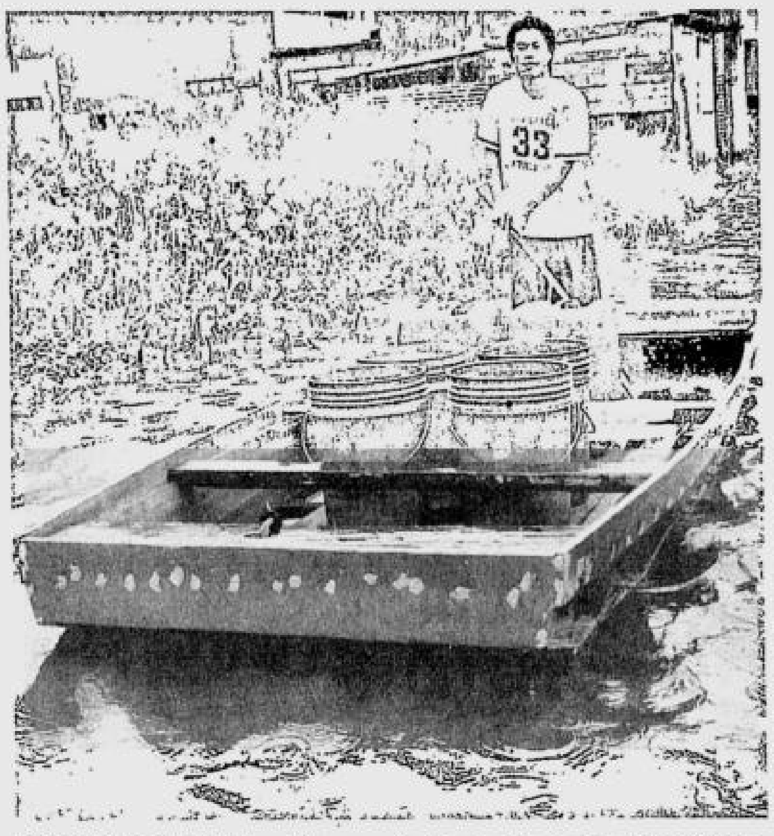
"Most likely, we will finish by this week. But if there will still be requests, then we will continue," he said.

For every cloud-seeding sortie to succeed, rainmakers must target towering cumulus clouds, the kind that are hard to come by in Isabela.

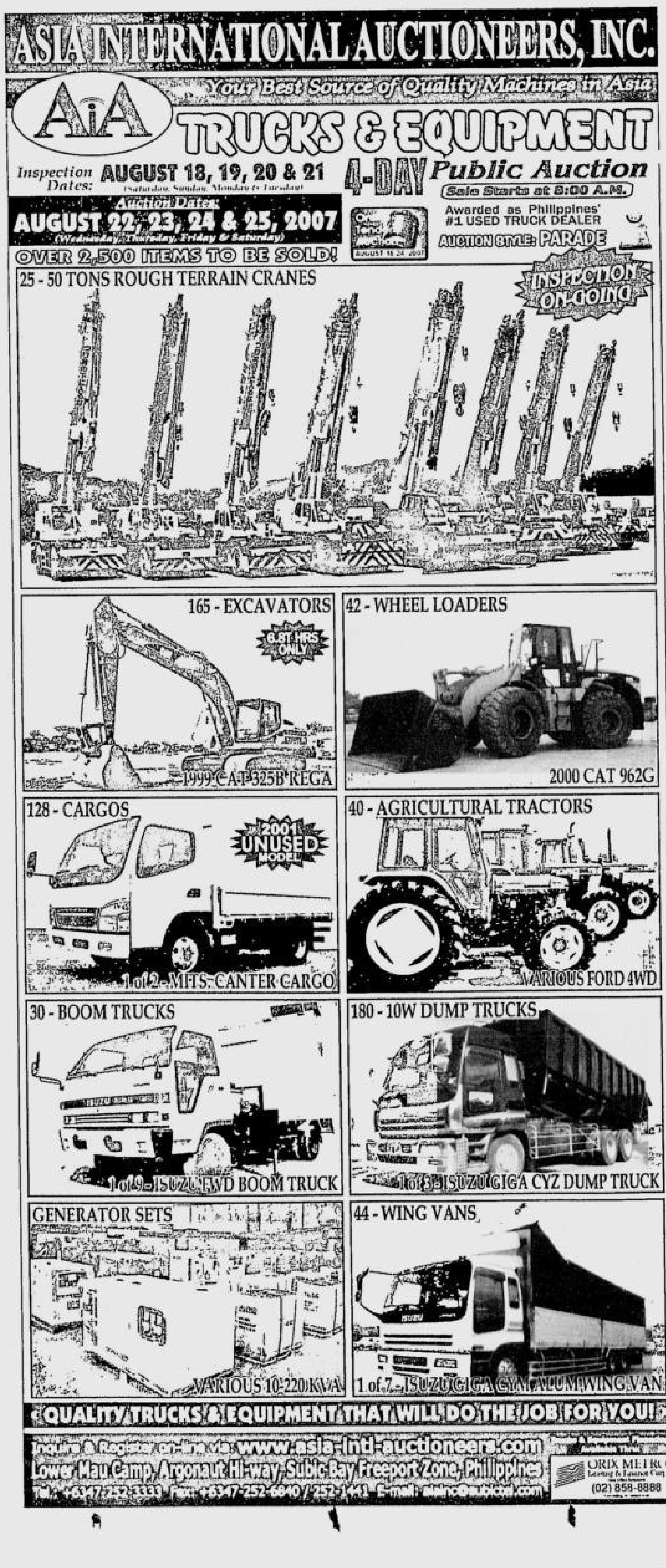
As this developed, an international peasant group, the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), and the militant farmers organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) have appealed for global aid for countries ravaged by recent storms and floods.

In a joint statement, Biplab Halim, APC Indian chair, noted that in the past few weeks thousands of peasants have been displaced by floods in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines.

He reported that in Northern India and Bangladesh, thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed by rains and were still submerged in floodwaters. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



PANGHULO in Malabon City remains flooded days after Egay left the country but, ironically, this man must deliver water to those in need of the commodity after the typhoon. RUDY ESPERAS



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Antismuggling czar tags BOC men in smuggling

By Michael Lim Ubac

SOME OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES of the Bureau of Customs are involved in the smuggling of cars and other items via the country's free ports, according to Antonio Villar Jr., chief of the newly created Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.

Villar was asked to name names during a press conference yesterday, but he said the PASG was still in the process of "validating" the list of suspected protectors of smugglers.

He said the number, including BOC examiners, could reach "more than 100 nationwide."

Villar said President Macapagal-Arroyo had given the PASG the "green light" to investigate the BOC officials who were allegedly in cahoots with big-time smugglers.

Asked if the PASG was encroaching on the functions of the BOC, Villar said: "Why would [the President] create the PASG if she was satisfied with the BOC?"

Last Thursday at the Subic Bay Freeport, 18 smuggled cars were crushed. The unprecedented move was described by Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales as a "condemnation process."

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the show cost the government an estimated P30 million in auction proceeds and P10 million in taxes.

However, the Department of Finance, the BOC and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) spared other smuggled luxury vehicles such as a Corvette, Lamborghini, a few Porsches, Audis and Cadillacs, which they earlier said they would destroy.

Of the 18 cars, only seven were luxury vehicles: A two-door Mitsubishi GTO, three BMW X5, one BMW 35i, one Lincoln Navigator and one Chevrolet Starcraft van. The rest were not: Six Toyota Estima, one Toyota Caldina, two Hyundai Grandeur, one Nissan Serena Vanette and one Mitsubishi VR-II.

During yesterday's press conference, Villar declined to comment on the reported rift between himself and Morales, but said: "Maybe one of us ... *kinukunsinti ang* (tolerates) smuggling."

Pointing to the connivance between smugglers and BOC officials, Villar said cars and other smuggled items could not be taken out of the ports without the "signatures of BOC officials."

Since January, Villar said the PASG was able to seize P300 million worth of smuggled items. He also admitted that the government's annual losses due to smuggling could reach P50-60 billion.

Reports reaching his office showed that corrupt BOC officials were paid P5,000 for a 20-footer container and P10,000 for a 40-footer container that they allowed through.

Villar also defended the decision of the BOC, DOF and Subic Freeport officials not to destroy the Ferrari, Lamborghini, the Porsches and 14 other luxury cars.

Teves said last week that the government had "to hurdle the legal processes" first. He added that the owners intended to avail themselves of legal processes to recover the luxury cars.

Villar disclosed he received several letters asking Ms Arroyo to reconsider her decision ordering the destruction of the luxury cars and instead to auction them off, so that the proceeds could be donated to charitable institutions like Gawad Kalinga.

2 lawmakers to share vital House committee leadership

By TJ Burgonio

REPRESENTATIVES EDCEL LAGMAN and Junie Cua will chair the House appropriations committee under a term-sharing agreement, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

De Venecia said Lagman of the first district of Albay and Cua of the lone district of Quirino were nominated by their respective parties, Lakas and Kampi, to head the most powerful committee in the House of Representatives.

"When I say they will be elected appropriations chair, they will be elected one after the other," De Venecia said in a statement.

The Speaker said the two senior lawmakers had agreed to serve one after the other, with Lagman possibly serving the first 18 months.

The appropriations committee was one of the few remaining key committees whose chair had not been named.

De Venecia's announcement comes one week before Malacañang is expected to submit the P1.2-trillion national budget for 2008 to Congress for approval.

De Venecia said the record general appropriations bill, the largest in the nation's history, would have substantial capital expenditures that would be "crucial in uplifting our people from poverty and lifting the economy."

He described both Lagman and Cua as highly regarded and thoroughly competent.

"With them heading the appropriations panel, the House will be ready to tackle the national budget, which has the highest priority in the agenda of Congress," he said.

In the last Congress, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda chaired the appropriations committee on a rotating basis. Andaya was subsequently appointed budget secretary while Salceda became President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

The House majority coalition began reorganizing the lower chamber a week after De Venecia was elected Speaker on July 23.

Misamis Occidental Rep. Herminia Ramiro was appointed chair of the committee on accounts, Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier was named chair of the committee on ways and means, and Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra was appointed head of the agriculture committee, among others.

After a House member raised objections, Majority Floor Leader Arthur Defensor explained that a committee had been formed to consult with the lawmakers on committee chairmanships and vice chairmanships. He said the selections were partial and not subject to a vote in the plenary.

The election of the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan MIguel Arroyo, and brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, as chairs of the committees on energy and natural resources, respectively, also drew criticism.

Ex-governor can't shake graft charge

A FORMER GOVERNOR OF TAWI-Tawi will stand trial for graft in the Sandiganbayan in connection with a complaint filed by a provincial treasurer he fired for allegedly misusing government funds in 2004.

The graft case against Rashidin Matba stemmed from a complaint filed by then provincial treasurer Pendatun Laja.

Matba said he dismissed Laja after investigation showed he had misappropriated contributions and loan payments to the Government Service Insurance System made by provincial government officials and employees.

In seeking dismissal of the case filed against him by the Ombudsman three years ago, Matba maintained that his dismissal of Laja was not a prohibited act but his obligation as a chief executive.

He said Laja had been found guilty of administrative offenses by the Ombudsman for Mindanao and was dismissed from the government service while several criminal cases were pending against him in different divisions of the Sandiganbayan.

But the antigraft court junked Matba's motion, pointing out it had found "sufficient basis" for the existence of probable cause.

It pointed out the ex-governor had also been charged with detailing Laja to his office and withholding a year's worth of his salary, disregarding an order of reinstatement issued by the Bureau of Local Government Finance under the Department of Finance.

For depriving Laja of his job and wages amounting to more than P397,000, Matba supposedly gave unwarranted benefit to his co-respondent, Abdulnasser Hadjiula, who was appointed in Laja's place.

Jocelyn R. Uy

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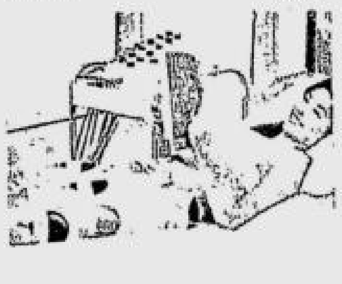

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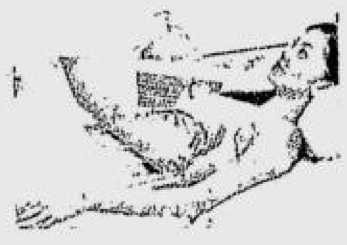

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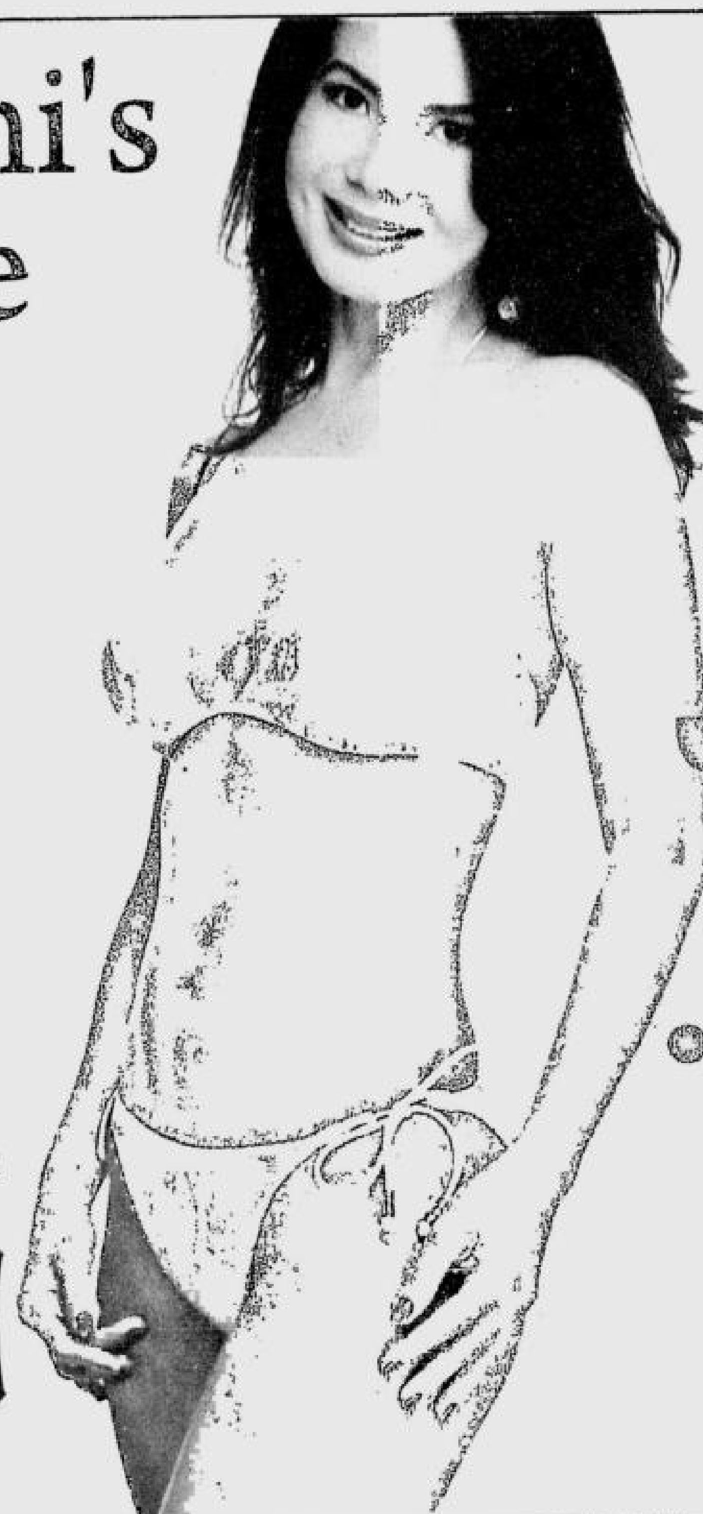


marie france

Market crash hits big, small investors alike

From page A1

selling stocks the past 10 years.

Small investors are those who buy shares worth P25,000 or less in an initial public or secondary stock offering, according to investment bankers. They account for about 10 percent of the Philippine Stock Exchange's total trades.

Bacani recalls how he survived market crashes during the share scandals that hounded the Estrada administration, which led to the impeachment and ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

Losing money faster now

"I have experienced losing before. Now, I'm losing again but the speed of losing money is faster now," Bacani says.

Over the past 10 years, Bacani has invested from P800,000 to P1.5 million in both "blue chips" and "speculative" stocks. He made the biggest gain during the bull run in the first half of the year, growing his money as much as five times.

The recent free-fall in the stock market, however, was so alarming it led him to sell indiscriminately at any price to cut his losses.

Savings wiped out

The market's fall has wiped out 10 years worth of hard-earned savings, which he bet entirely on the stock market, according to Bacani.

"A while ago, I was hoping for a correction but I'll be lucky if I can even recover P100,000 to P200,000," he says.

"I thought the sentiment, especially after the elections, was bullish. But what's happening now, it's a brutal correction. Now, I'm even wishing that the market would fall next week so I could feel relieved that when I sold, I sold at a good price," Bacani said, half in jest.

Confidence broken

No one is spared from a stock market's fall, whether you are a big or small investor, says online broker Citiseconline.Com president Conrado Bate.

"All markets are getting beaten and the problem is affecting everybody. Confidence is broken and it will take a while before it returns. We can't quantify how much people are hurt," Bate says.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., says that quantifying the damage depends on how much money one has bet on the market.

"If you've invested 100 percent [of your money], whether you're a big or small investor, that is very painful. But if you just invested 10 percent of your income, whether or not you're a big or small player, then you get hurt 10 percent," Roxas said.

One measure of how much the market has fallen is to look at the value of stocks based on current prices multiplied by the total number of shares issued.

A trillion pesos lost

Since the stock market's peak on July 5, the total market value of all listed firms has declined by a whopping P1.25 trillion.

The market value of the 29 companies in the blue chip Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) has dropped by P780 billion.

Year-to-date, the PSEi lost 98.2 points, or 3.3 percent.

Since hitting the all-time high early last month, the stock index has shed a total of 907.08 points, or 23.92 percent.

Subprime mortgage woes

On Friday, the stock market fell to its lowest level in almost eight months, as it continued to succumb to the weakness in global markets, hit badly by the US subprime problems.

The subprime mortgage sector provides home loans to people with poor credit histories.

Despite the market's steep fall of roughly more than 500 points in the past six trading days, sentiment about how far the market has hit bottom remains mixed among analysts.

"It's really hard to say. From the [technical charts], the latest breakdown has support at 2,800 but fundamentally, share prices are cheap. But the market is not following any of these leads. It's content to follow Wall Street's lead. If New York stabilizes then so will we," says Francisco Liboro, president of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines (Asap).

"For me, we've seen the bottom. I think it will go up next week depending on the US because stocks now are so cheap," says Makati broker Vivian Yuchengco.

He gambled . . .

From page A1

So last October, as mortgage-backed bonds were still flying high, he bet $10 million that these bonds would plunge in value, using complex derivatives available to any institutional investor.

As his gamble began to pay off in the first months of 2007, Melcher, a New York-based money manager, plowed the profits into ever bigger wagers that the mortgage crisis would worsen further, eventually risking some $60 million of the fund's money.

Melcher's flagship fund has since doubled in value, even as this summer's market turmoil cost other investors billions of dollars, forced the closing of several major hedge funds and pushed the US stock market down 7 percent since mid-July.

This week, Melcher and his wife are heading to Paris for a vacation.

The extent of the turmoil has stunned much of Wall Street, but as Melcher's case makes clear, there were ample warning signs that a financial time bomb in the form of subprime mortgages was ticking quietly for months, if not years.

As far back as 2001, advocates for low-income homeowners had argued that mortgage providers were making loans to borrowers without regard to their ability to repay. Many could not even scrape together the money for a down payment and were being approved with little or no documentation of their income or assets.

"Until recently, there was a lot of denial, but this is a big deal," said Byron R. Wien, a 40-year veteran of Wall Street who is now chief investment strategist at Pequot Capital.

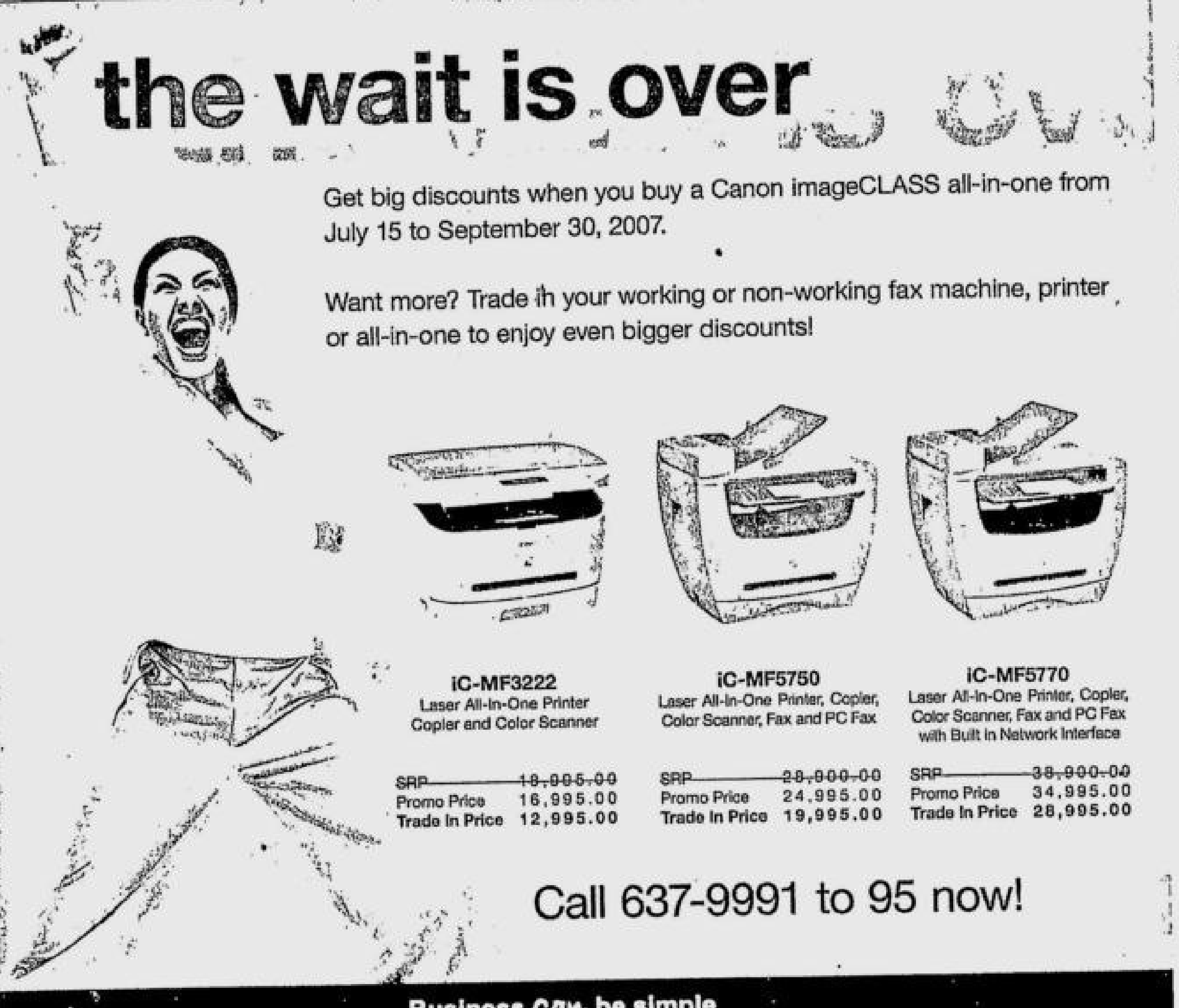
"Now the big question is: Will this spill over into the broader economy?"

The answer to that question will be revealed over the coming months. But the cast of characters who missed signals, like the rise of delinquencies and foreclosures, is becoming easier to identify.

The characters include investment banks happy to sell risky but lucrative mortgage debt to hedge funds hungry for high interest payments, bond rating agencies willing to hope for the best in the housing market and provide sterling credit appraisals to debt issuers, and subprime mortgage brokers addicted to high sales volumes.

What is more, some of these players now find themselves in a dual role as both enabler and victim, like the legions of individual borrowers who were convinced that their homes could only keep rising in value and were confident that they could afford to stretch for the biggest mortgage possible.

New York Times News Service



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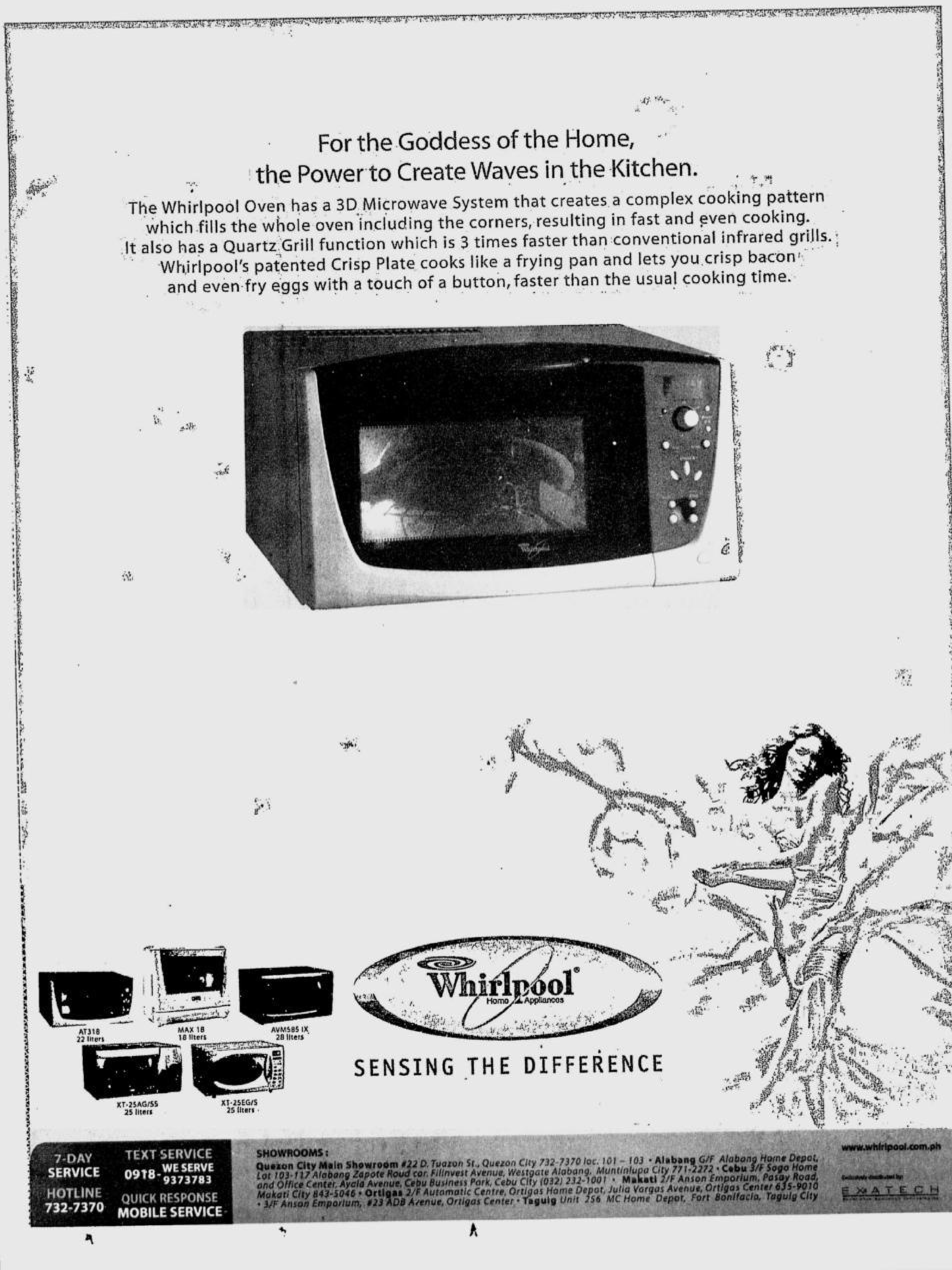

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EXATECH

Chung To: A rising star changes course

From page A1

more fulfilling focus in life.

Chung and his family migrated to the United States and settled in San Francisco in 1982 when he was 15. It was a time when people were dying from a mysterious disease and San Francisco was one of the badly hit areas. Chung recalls that the disease was on the front pages of newspapers almost every day and that people referred to it as the "gay cancer" since most of the victims were gay.

He was deeply moved when his own high school math teacher died of the disease, identified later as AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) that was caused by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). While still a student, Chung joined volunteer groups that raised funds for AIDS. He reportedly lost several friends to AIDS while working in New York.

Ignorant of AIDS

In Hong Kong, Chung found most of the homosexual community ignorant of AIDS. Although about a third of HIV/AIDS cases were gay men, unprotected sex among them was very common. He realized that the situation was not any better in rural areas in mainland China where people thought HIV and AIDS were inborn diseases.

Concerned that an AIDS epidemic similar to what he saw in San Francisco could hit highly populated China, Chung and some friends put up the Chi Heng (meaning "wisdom in action") Foundation.

The Chi Heng Foundation (CHF) aimed at educating the Chinese on HIV and AIDS to protect high-risk groups, including homosexuals and sex workers. The foundation enlisted the help of brothel owners and volunteers to distribute condoms and safe sex kits in gay bars and clubs.

The foundation also set up a help line that delivered frank and factual information about HIV and AIDS, linked victims to doctors, and offered counseling and legal advice. Eventually, it reached the gay community through the Internet. Its operations started in Hong Kong and later expanded to the mainland.

By 1999, Chung divided his time between his job as vice president of Credit Agricole Indosuez in Hong Kong and the CHF. On one of his visits to villages in 2001, someone advised him to look into the AIDS situation in central China where poor farmers had been selling their blood to earn extra money. They also contracted AIDS due to the unhygienic methods used in blood collection.

Chung and CHF volunteers visited several villages in central China and found areas where, according to the South China Morning Post, "young children have had to grow up too fast and take on the chores and responsibilities of adulthood.

Whole generation lost

These are villages where a whole generation has been wiped out and children are looked after by their elderly, emotionally devastated grandparents."

An entry in Chung's diary: "In one of the villages, out of tens of families almost every family had someone with AIDS. In dark and airless houses lay young but critically ill AIDS patients. They, who should be in their prime yet have to struggle with death daily, unable to care for their very young children, become old and ailing like a candle fluttering in the wind."

Noting that the AIDS victims were dying without medical attention, he wrote: "Admittedly death is frightening but dying with no dignity is even worse. Even though it was a hot summer day, one cannot but feel the chills."

An equally serious aftermath of the AIDS epidemic in the villages were the thousands of orphans, some of them HIV-positive.

In 2004, the Shanghai Daily cited a government report claiming over 60,000 AIDS-registered HIV carriers as of 2003 and noted that experts estimated the actual number to be about 840,000.

Chung realized that the situation needed his full attention. He gave up his job at the bank and launched AIDS Orphans Project.

He now devotes all his time to CHF. When he is not raising funds, he is in the villages attending directly to the needs of victims and the orphans.

The CHF operates in the villages throughout central China, giving support to children who have lost at least one parent to AIDS or are living with an AIDS victim. The matter of how to take care of the children was carefully studied.

In the end, CHF chose to have the children live with grandparents or relatives within the same village and to attend regular village schools. Such a scheme was thought best to minimize the orphans' isolation.

Education expenses

The CHF pays for the education and living expenses of the children. Its largest aid project is in Shangcai county in Henan province where more than 3,000 children are given assistance. The foundation has extended its assistance to the children in the provinces of Anhui and Shandong as well.

Chung devised a procedure wherein the child's parent or relative advanced payment for the school fees and then presented the receipt to the CHF for reimbursement. This system ensured that funds for a child's education were not used for other purposes by the family.

Chung himself would go to the villages to distribute the scholarship funds, his way of interacting with the children and to look into their academic records. He would give additional funds to those who would be in the top ten of their class.

Aside from scholarships, the CHF offers psychotherapy sessions to allow the children to express and eventually reconcile with their feelings on their experiences through drawings and essays.

The South China Morning Post relates the story of a boy whom Chung met during one of his village visits. The boy had lost his father to AIDS and his mother was now dying. With a clenched fist, the boy said: "I'll kill this blood hand when I grow up," referring to those who operated the blood bank to which poor farmers sold their blood.

Memory Book Project

Another CHF program is the Memory Book Project which encourages AIDS victims to put together their family trees, personal stories, practical and moral advice, photographs, letters, and other memorabilia for incorporation in a memory book.

With the memory book, the AIDS orphans have a record of their personal history and intimate memories of their parents.

The CHF now operates in 10 cities in China, including Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen in Guangdong province. Its offices are manned by staff and volunteers, like retired investment banker Brenda Li. Among its donors and partners are agencies of the United Nations, The Global Fund, Clinton Foundation, Home Affairs Bureau in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong AIDS trust fund.

Private individuals who believe in Chung's work have likewise committed themselves to the cause. In 2006, Patrick Poon and his wife Dora, helped raise HK$2 million for CHF. They hope to raise HK$3 million this year.

Latest award

Chung is the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership for "his proactive and compassionate response to AIDS in China and to the needs of its most vulnerable victims."

This is the latest award accorded the man who now lives on his savings. Among his other awards are Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World, 2006 (Junior Chamber International); 50 Most Charismatic Persons in China, 2006 (People's Weekly Magazine); Rotary Club Centennial Award for Professional Excellence, 2005 (Rotary International); AIDS in Hong Kong 20 Years: Ten Most Inspiring Persons, 2004 (Hong Kong Government Department of Health), and Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Hong Kong, 2003 (Junior Chamber of Hong Kong).

The Orphans Project started with 127 students; today, about 4,000 children are under its fold. Some of the orphans have completed university education and have joined Chung on his visits to the villages.

These graduates get further support from Chung who helps them look for work and arranges for their job training.

In an interview with the Shanghai Daily, Chung expresses no regret for giving up corporate life. "My former job can easily be filled by others but not my current one ... Actually, I'm quite proud of what I have been doing—before, now, and in the future."

This is one star over China whose light is as intense as ever.

Hundreds pose naked ...

From page A1

ing a megaphone, directed nearly 600 volunteers from all over Europe and photographed them on a rocky outcrop overlooking the glacier, which is the largest in the Alps.

Later, he took pictures of the naked volunteers standing in groups on the mass of ice and lying down. Camera crews were staged at five different points on the glacier to take photographs.

Glaciers, which are sensitive to climate change, have been receding since the start of the industrial age, but the pace of shrinkage has accelerated in recent years.

The environmental group Greenpeace, which organized the shoot, said the aim was to "establish a symbolic relationship between the vulnerability of the melting glacier and the human body."

The Aletsch descends around the south side of the Jungfrau mountain in the Upper Rhone Valley.

The volunteers walked for several hours in the mountains to reach the glacier before taking their clothes off briefly for the shoot in temperatures of around 10 degrees Celsius.

Alpine glaciers have lost about one-third of their length and half their volume over the past 150 years. The Aletsch ice mass has retreated by 115 meters in the last two years alone, according to Greenpeace.

Tunick has staged mass nude photo shoots in cities across the world, from Newcastle, Britain, to Mexico City, where a record 18,000 people took off their clothes in the Mexican capital's Zocalo Square in May.

Speaking to Geneva's Le Temps newspaper in an interview published before the shoot on Saturday, Tunick said his photographs were both works of art and political statements.

"I will try to treat the body on two levels. On an abstract level, as if they were flowers or stones. And on a more social level, to represent their vulnerability and humanity with regard to nature and the city and to remind people where we come from," he said.

Switzerland has about 1,800 glaciers and almost of them are losing ground.

If global warming continues unabated, most glaciers will disappear from the Earth by 2080, according to Greenpeace.

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Leadership changes at the top too frequent

From page A1

mess had been festering even before Lapus came in. Alidon says Lapus has instituted reforms in the procurement process and his accomplishments cannot be "overshadowed by these baseless accusations."

Ms Arroyo's appointment of Director General Romulo Neri of the National Economic and Development Authority last month as head of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) sparked rumors that this may lead to the appointment of an "education czar."

Neri was ostensibly shifted to CHEd on a "special assignment" for six months to address a so-called "jobs-skills" mismatch—a situation where there's a glut of 600,000 available jobs, mainly in cyberservices, tourism and agribusiness, that over a million college graduates cannot fill.

Also fueling speculation was a new executive order issued last month, abolishing the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) and replacing it with a presidential assistant. NCCE is the coordinating body for DepEd, CHEd and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

The issuance of the order further fueled speculation on the supposed education overlord with orders to whip the system into shape to meet the demands of globalization and address Filipinos' generally depressing scores in Math, Science and English proficiency tests.

Lapus dismisses rumors

In a recent interview with INQUIRER editors and reporters, Lapus dismissed talk that he was on his way out and instead discussed DepEd's effort to update textbooks in elementary and high schools—a process that takes place every five years.

The current cycle began in 2005—over a year before Lapus arrived at the DepEd—and was funded by a $200-million loan from the World Bank. Controversies in the bidding hobbled the project, requiring judicial intervention following protests by the losing bidders, delaying it by one year.

Delivery of the first tranche of textbooks in Filipino in Makabayan and Aralin Panlipunan—social studies—from Grades 1 to 5 was made only beginning in January for use in the 2007-2008 school year.

"When I came in, I was in the hot seat immediately," recalls Lapus. "I didn't even know the transactions."

Unbundling

In a major attempt to sort out the mess, Lapus announced that he had initiated steps to "unbundle" the bidding process by holding separate tenders for textbook content, publishing and delivery—all previously awarded to a publishing house.

The process started in May with the next set of updated English books.

Under the Lapus plan, authors will submit teaching materials and manuals that will undergo a four-level examination—previously two stages—by DepEd evaluators consisting of staff and consultants.

He also plans to form an "oversight" panel, including representatives of such elite schools as Ateneo, La Salle and the University of the Philippines, that will put an "institutional imprimatur" on the finished product.

"We're still sounding off people," he says, picking brains to determine what ideas will work best.

Transparency

"We need transparency in the process," Lapus says.

Evaluators, who approved textbooks riddled with factual and conceptual errors, will be banned from the screening mechanism.

Participants will be called to a two-day seminar to get them to know the rules of the game and make them compete with old hands familiar with how the system works and are at a great advantage, allowing them to corner bids all the time.

Lapus says representatives of the World Bank will participate in the seminar.

"All bidding documents have to pass through the World Bank," he says. Winners will get a "no-objection" letter from the agency.

"The World Bank is not going to be party to hanky-panky," he says. "Their reputation is more important than that."

After a textbook has been selected, it will be given a copyright with the appropriate fees and it will be submitted to a bidding for publishing—the second stage in the unbundling process.

Smaller lots

To ensure participation of local printing houses, Lapus says "lots"—books for different grades—will be broken down into small amounts up to a maximum of P100 million.

"Bidders will have to prove capacity to print," he says. There will be an examination of the publishers' track record and financial capability.

LAPUS

DepEd representatives will be present at every stage of the print runs to ensure mistakes are immediately rectified once exposed. There will be a "sampling of production on quality," Lapus says. "Each production run will have to be cleared."

In the final stage, a tender will be held for delivery of the textbooks—to do away with a problem that on several occasions in the recent past resulted in teaching materials rotting in DepEd warehouses undelivered.

One participant in a recent bidding offered to publish a book at even half its printing cost, confident that it will be as before—the product will not be delivered anyway, particularly in conflict-torn regions of the country, and no one will raise a stink.

National concern

Lapus says he plans to mobilize civil society, nongovernment organizations, parents and local communities to get involved in the delivery and monitoring of the transactions. He also says he plans to get the leading accounting firm Sycip, Gorres & Velayo to audit the process.

If the textbook controversy appears to be Lapus' main preoccupation, it is because it is now on the front burner—an issue that is central to the systemic failure to improve the quality of Philippine education.

Lapus, in fact, has quietly addressed numerous other problems inherent in a huge bureaucracy, such as the DepEd. He has unburdened one person in charge of procurement and put two more officers in order to get things moving.

He is wracking his brains trying to address the annual problems of shortages of classrooms and schools, desks, pushing the all important initiative to train and hire teachers.

Conscious of an alarmingly high dropout rate, Lapus is looking at strengthening vocational and technical skills training by enlisting 1,500 technical instructors from Tesda so that high school graduates could at least get a skills certificate that will enable them to become apprentices in private companies.

Aptitude test

In January, Lapus initiated an aptitude examination to guide students and parents in choosing career paths. He plans to help hammer out legislation that will reinstitute what used to be called the National College Entrance Examinations (NCEE) for graduating high schools and, thus, put in place at least a semblance of a screening mechanism.

Before the NCEE was dropped in 1992, those who aspired to become teachers had to place among the top 30 percent in test results, according to Lapus. "So, do you wonder now that most teachers are taking the easy majors? They don't have Science and Math and they cannot speak English," he says.

The key is to get parents to accept that a college diploma is not the end all of education.

"There's no shame in Japan, Germany, Australia, that they have fewer college graduates than the Philippines. We have over a million college graduates. Nobody wants them. They don't have the skills," says Lapus.

'Frontloading'

A banker with a reputation as a crisis manager, the former Tarlac congressman is talking about getting financial institutions and construction companies to invest in building schools and other material needs in these facilities.

Lapus also talks of issuing "education bonds" to overseas Filipino workers who otherwise would put in their money to such things as real estate and condominiums since they will be investing in the future of their country.

"Our problem is front loading," he says, referring to the need for financial wherewithal to meet the needs of the ever-burgeoning population and stressing that DepEd has a "good cash flow."

Every child born requires DepEd to prepare for tens of thousands of classrooms every year if the government is to meet its mandate to provide free basic education to everyone.

"We need all those classrooms now," he says. "We need radical solutions ... If it's business as usual, we will not catch up. There will be casualties every year." *With reports from Tarra Quismundo, Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Is DepEd critic barking up the wrong tree?

From page A1

Alas, the guide is of little help, in Go's estimation.

"I proceeded to compare it with my own Corrigenda (a list of errors and their corresponding corrections)," says Go, 56. "In many instances, what was already correct had inadvertently been made wrong."

Proof of the pudding

Go's detractors in the department say he is in the pay of perennial losers in DepEd bidding—something he vehemently denies. Because the proof of the pudding is in the eating, however, the detractors submit to some—not all—the mistakes Go has found.

In his latest ad, Go made it a point to identify not only the textbooks but also their authors, most of them with Ph.Ds and MAs tacked to their names. He had come out with similar ads in the past and paid for them out of his own funds, saying righting the wrongs in the learning materials was a personal crusade.

Some authors are aghast at Go.

"He's barking up the wrong tree," says one author, who does not wish to be identified because he does not have permission to speak from his publisher. He says the culprits are the DepEd evaluators—faceless consultants who approved the textbooks in the first place.

If the department is really determined to rectify errors, he says, the names of the consultants and staff enlisted to conduct the evaluation should be made public—something DepEd has shied away from doing.

The pretenders will then be exposed, embarrassed and held accountable, this author says.

He also referred to a recent Go allegation that one textbook attempted to portray the dictatorial regime of Ferdinand Marcos in a good light in a bid to make history "more positive."

Adherence to the learning competencies decreed by DepEd is a must to win acceptance, no matter that standards are subjective and arbitrary.

He refers to a history book he and fellow teachers in the subject had submitted for screening in the controversial bidding in 2005.

Balangiga massacre

Evaluators rejected an account of the Balangiga massacre, where Filipino revolutionaries slaughtered American soldiers during the Philippine-American War, triggering a bloody reprisal from US forces. They said it was too violent.

This author says TV news clips of crime in the evenings are much more appalling.

An illustration of the use of water torture employed by US forces against the Filipino revolutionaries also was rejected by the screeners, saying what was needed was a photograph.

The attempt to portray the courage of the so-called comfort women, sex slaves during the Japanese occupation, in coming out and recounting their ordeal also was nixed because it would strain diplomatic ties between Tokyo and Manila and debase Filipino women.

Another example of the wide leeway given evaluators was the rejection of an economics book in Filipino that received a grade of zero. The rejection was particularly disheartening because the material was already being used in private schools.

Teaching assistant

What is more troubling is the fact that a coauthor subsequently discovered that a DepEd evaluator was using a teaching assistant to go over the material he was hired and paid for as a consultant to scrutinize.

Local authors say that the government should shy away from foreign loans to finance the publishing of school textbooks, saying the DepEd might be beholden to donors to a point that unpalatable facets of history are then distorted.

Vetting the product

"We should not allow international agencies to influence the writing of our books," says Sen. Edgardo Angara. "They are vetting the final product. They're trying to mold the Filipino mind."

Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Ateneo de Manila University president, looks unfavorably at Education Secretary Jesli Lapus' plan to enlist his school in reviewing textbooks the department is publishing.

"We have told the DepEd that all one can do in the final vetting is to correct grammatical mistakes, et cetera," says Nebres.

"But it is not possible to correct substantive errors anymore. That should have been done before the final decision on the textbooks. What we suggested was that he actually get experts with credibility early into the process."

Angara's lament

Angara laments Congress' scrapping 15 years ago of the government-owned Instructional Materials Corp., which maintained a stable of writers that produced textbooks in almost all disciplines. The writers were recruited from the private sector.

"At that time, there was no complaint about palpable errors. No complaint about one company cornering the supply of textbooks," says Angara.

"We ought to restore that concept of a government textbook company... otherwise the incestuous relation will happen again."

Go has offered to help solve the recurring textbook errors and meet with DepEd officials, if they agree that impartial observers are present.

"It's about the children, the future of us all," he says in his newspaper ad. "It is time to make peace, to sit down and clean the books."

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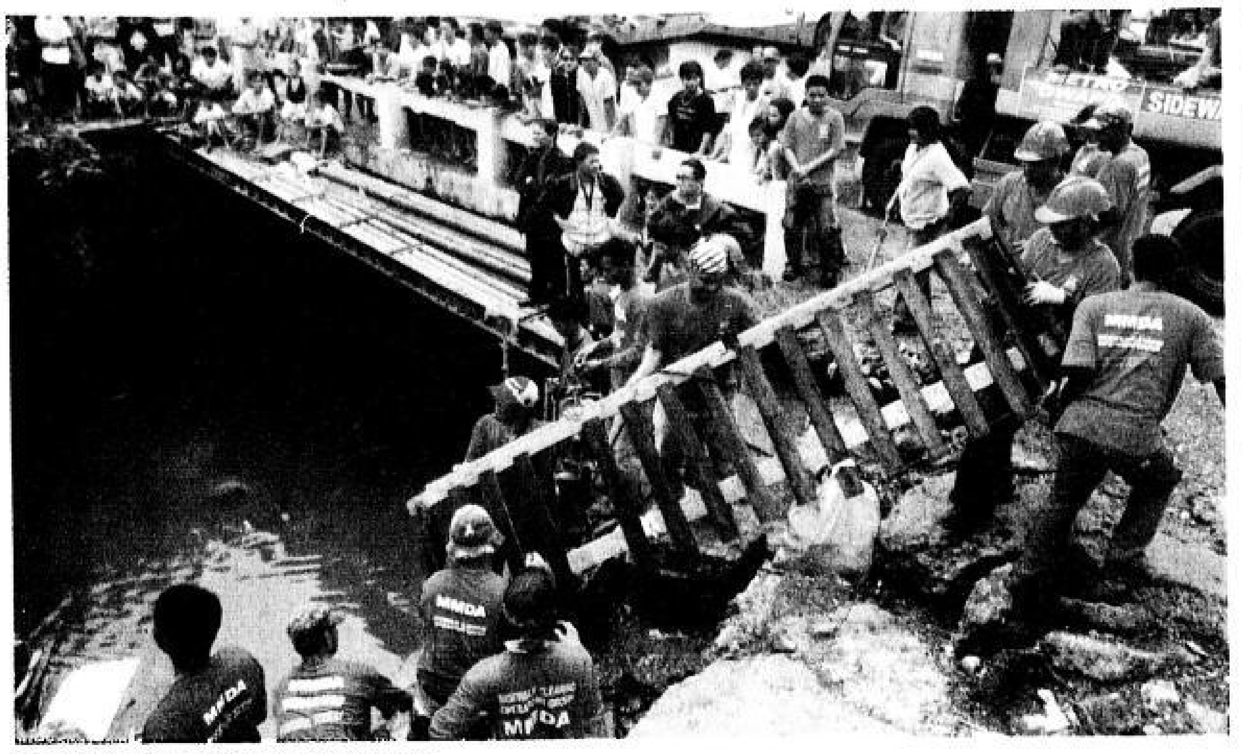

TROUBLED WATER NO MORE
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) workers demolish shanties built along a creek on Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia Avenue) in Makati City yesterday as part of clearing efforts to get local waterways flowing again to prevent flooding. RYAN LIM

Comelec resets assessment

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS rescheduled its election assessment conference so more groups and individuals can participate, according to a Comelec official.

The conference was organized to find ways to improve the country's much-criticized electoral system.

Originally scheduled for today up to Wednesday, the Comelec approved a recommendation moving the conference dates to Sept. 10-12, according to Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez.

Jimenez said some 150 participants would attend the conference.

He said participating organizations would be allowed only two representatives each.

"Otherwise, the conference would be too big," Jimenez said yesterday in a phone interview.

Among those who have expressed interest in joining the conference are election watchdog Halalang Marangal (Halal), whose convenors include former Comelec Commissioner Mehol Sadain, and the National Youth Commission (NYC).

The Comelec is set to invite to the conference its critics like the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the Parish Pastoral Council of the Philippines, the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), various other election watchdogs and the media.

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Charges filed against 27 in alleged pyramid scam

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has filed charges against 27 officials and investors in Francswiss Investment, one of the alleged "Ponzi" pyramiding schemes proliferating on the Internet.

Charged with syndicated estafa before the Department of Justice were Michael Mansfield, chief financial officer; Kurt Sandelman, risk management team leader; Rupert Benedict da Vinco, investment team leader; Julia Rodriguez, international banking team leader; Hector Willem Sidberg, marketing and international affairs, and Fernando Munoz, customer service leader.

Also charged were Francswiss officers in the Asia-Pacific region. They were Roger Smith, the British chief operation officer of FS Investment in the Asia-Pacific region; Bensy Fong, the Singaporean system operation officer; Raymond Chua, Singaporean marketing officer and two persons identified only as Michelle and Mike, Filipino secretaries and collectors of money from investors.

The NBI also filed charges against at least 16 investors, including arrested suspect Eleazard Castillo, who allegedly enticed others to put their money in Francswiss.

Castillo, 26, a native of Cabuyao, Ilocos Sur, allegedly one of the financial advisers of Francswiss, was arrested by NBI agents in Baguio City last month.

The case stemmed from the complaints of at least 41 investors who said they lost a total of $75,000 (roughly P3.5 million) to the spurious investment scheme.

Francswiss, which started operating in March, was believed to have gypped unsuspecting investors in the Philippines of P1 billion, the NBI had said.

A Ponzi scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that involves paying abnormally high returns to investors out of the money raised from new investors, rather than from profits generated by any real business.

The respondents allegedly lured unsuspecting victims to its website http://www.francswiss.biz and http://deutchfrancs.com.

Investors were asked to invest $1,000 in francswiss.biz and $10,000 in deutchfrancs.com with a promise to double their money in 22 days.

They were promised daily interest of 4.5 percent or $45 which they could encash through an Internet-to-bank transaction. An additional 10-percent commission as "e-points" was also promised for every new investor recruited.

American killed in Batangas

CAMP VICENTE Lim, Laguna—A 96-year-old American was stabbed dead last Tuesday night by suspected robbers at his resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, the police reported.

Supt. Jojo Pumida, Nasugbu police chief, identified the victim as Harold Adams of New Jersey.

Pumida said Adams' Filipino wife, Nonalita Toledo-Adams, discovered the bloodied body of her husband in their house at Maligaya Beach Resort.

Pumida said police were looking at robbery as the motive after the wife told investigators money and valuables were missing from their room. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Made to move

Labor department to teach OFWs how to invest their funds

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND Employment said over the weekend there was a need to teach returning overseas Filipino workers and the families of those OFWs who were abroad how to invest their dollar earnings.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said the National Reintegration Center for OFWs, a newly created DOLE agency, would be doing the rounds of the provinces to teach OFWs and their families, among others, how they could engage in livelihoods and small and medium enterprises using their earnings.

"We are still in the advocacy stage and we're now increasing our awareness drive so that our operations can go full blast by December," Brion said in an interview.

Brion spoke Friday at a forum at the NRCO office in Manila, where stakeholders discussed ways to promote a culture of savings and investment for OFWs and their families.

Savings and investment schemes were part of the reintegration program for OFWs that DOLE launched in March to bridge the gap between overseas employment and the achievement of development goals.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) chief Marianito Roque said President Macapagal-Arroyo recently gave P100 million to the National Livelihood Support Fund to be utilized exclusively for OFWs.

Through loans, investment seminars and entrepreneurship training, Roque said the government has since assisted returning OFWs or their families in setting up more than 130 businesses.

Many studies have shown that migrants' remittances are primarily spent on consumption and daily sustenance.

OFW denies kidnap tale

By Cynthia D. Balana

AN OVERSEAS FILipino worker who had worked on the construction of the US Embassy building in Baghdad has denied the Filipino workers brought to Iraq by a Kuwaiti firm were kidnapped and forced to work in the war-torn country.

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Para sa Iyo, Bayan" Saturday, Johnny Babiera disputed the claim of Roy Mayberry, an American, before the US Congress on July 26 that 51 unsuspecting Filipinos were kidnapped and smuggled into Iraq and compelled to work by First Kuwaiti, the construction firm contracted by the US, under highly unsafe conditions.

In his testimony, Mayberry said he had accompanied 51 Filipinos from Kuwait to Iraq and that while at the Kuwait airport, he noticed the destination on the tickets of the Filipinos was Dubai.

Babiera, who was with Mayberry's group, said there were only 41 passengers, 11 of them Filipinos, who were flown on First Kuwaiti's private jet to Iraq.

Barbiera said the Filipinos knew their destination was Iraq because their work contracts were arranged in Kuwait.

"It's not true that we were forced and nobody was complaining while we were aboard the plane," Barbiera told De Castro, who is also presidential adviser on OFWs.

According to Barbiera, he had previously worked in Iraq for 11 months as an electrician.

On his second trip, he worked at the embassy construction site but only for 45 days because he suffered a stroke. He later left for the Philippines.

Asked by De Castro about their working conditions in Iraq, Babiera said in Filipino, "We were treated very well. Food was enough. In fact, Filipinos there are the most popular because we are hardworking."

He recalled that there were about 1,000 Filipinos working in the Green Zone in Iraq which is heavily guarded by US security forces.

De Castro said the government would go after First Kuwaiti's local counterpart for violating the travel ban.

He said the Department of Foreign Affairs should negotiate with the government of Kuwait, including First Kuwaiti, to observe the travel ban.

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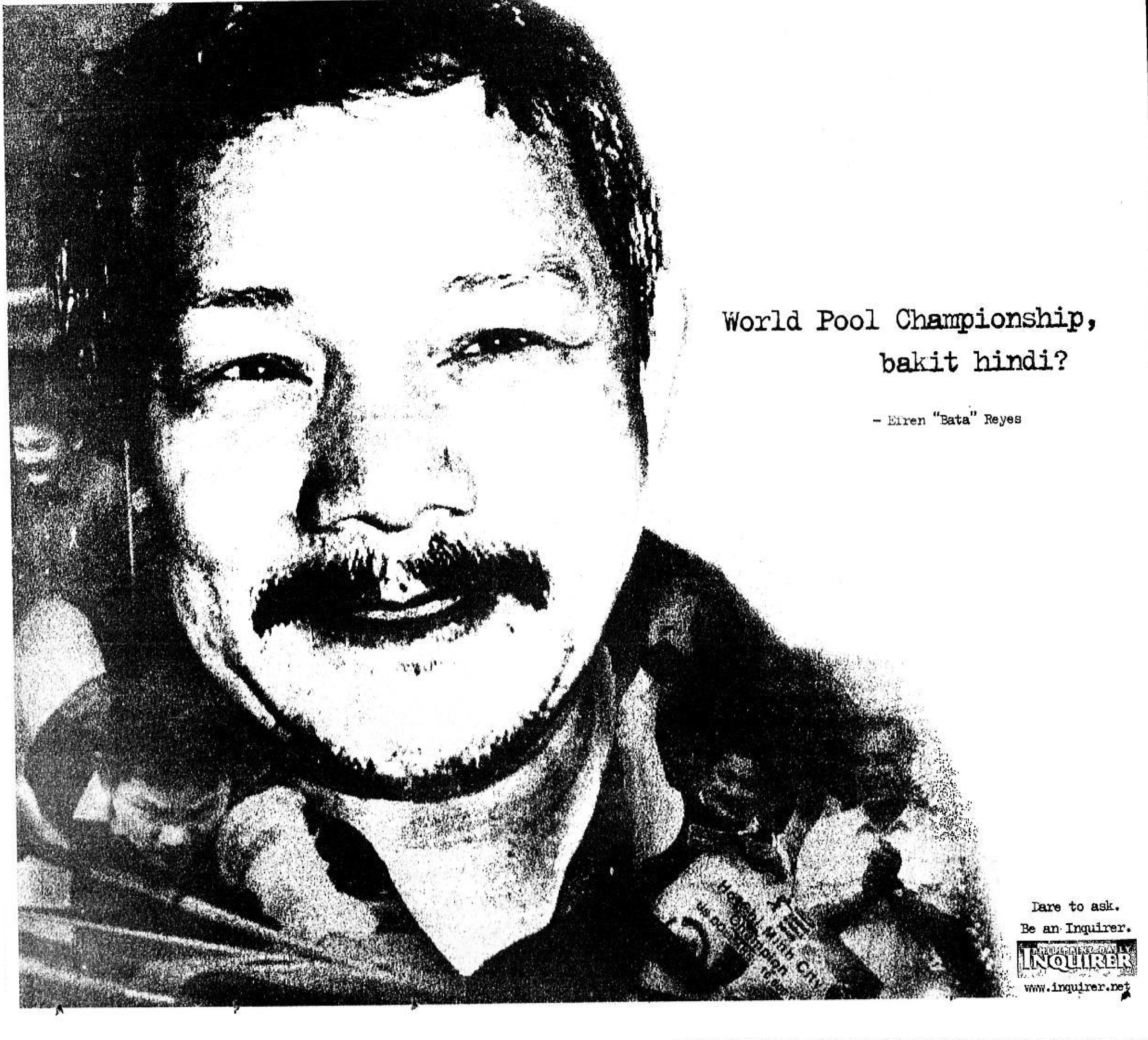
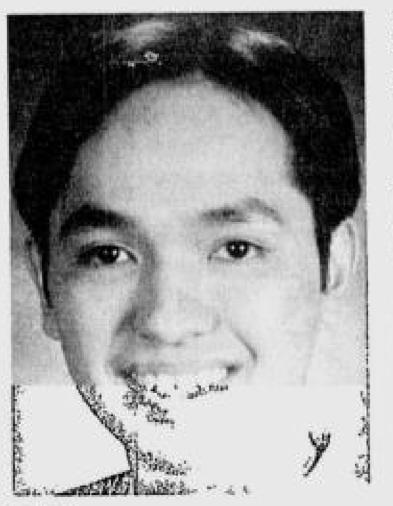


Patients can't believe young man is a doctor

At 23, Adrian Paul Rabe makes his rounds after passing the recent medical board exam

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon



RABE

MANGALDAN, PANGASINAN—He's no Doogie Howser, the fictional teenage doctor in the popular '90s sitcom, but whenever Adrian Paul Rabe makes his rounds at the Philippine General Hospital, he gets questioning looks from patients.

"Are you really a doctor?" some would ask.

No wonder. Rabe, a native of this town, was barely out of his teens when he started out as a medical clerk and intern at the PGH.

At 22, he is the youngest member of Class 2007 of the University of the Philippines' seven-year Integrated Liberal Arts-Medicine (Intarmed) program. He passed the medical licensure examinations this month.

The Intarmed program allows high school graduates to be directly admitted to the UP College of Medicine.

Mature for his age

Rabe says that of the original 40 members of his class in the Intarmed program, 37 graduated in April. The 37 were also among the 141 board passers from the UP College of Medicine this year.

Rabe turned 23 on Aug. 17, the day after the medical board exam results were released. He says he does not mind when patients express doubts after they learn his age.

He tells them they have nothing to worry about because, although he is young, he knows what he is doing.

"It's an opportunity to be here at a young age. I'm just younger than others, not special at all," says Rabe, who plans to take his residency at PGH, specializing in internal medicine, "most probably cardiology."

Emmanuel Hao II, class president, says Rabe may be the youngest in their class, but he is "smart, knowledgeable and very mature for his age."

Growing up in Kuwait

Rabe says his experiences as a boy helped make him a professional and responsible young man.

When he was young, his family lived in Kuwait. His father, Pete, an engineer, was a contract worker while his mother, Zenaida, also an engineer, took care of their five young children.

He was 6 years old when the Gulf War broke out in August 1990 and the family decided to return to the Philippines.

"As we drove to Jordan, we were stopped by the military and my father was separated from us. We were taken to a desert camp where there were no [toilets] and we had to do it in the desert. We stayed there for some weeks," Rabe says.

Back in the Philippines

"It was difficult because it was only my mother who took care of us and we had no idea where my father was. But she was very strong and she told us we would see him soon," he recalls.

They were back in the Philippines in September 1990. His father arrived a week later. The family decided to settle in this town and start a photo studio and developing business.

"I don't belong to an affluent family. I guess my experiences during the war, in the desert, made me more tolerant and caring," Rabe says.

"The patients who go to the PGH are [mostly] poor, sometimes [they are] unkempt and smelly. Many of them are dying and we can only give them palliative medical care. Most of the time, my classmates would ask me to take over [the care] of these patients because they know I am *matiisin* (tolerant) and I can keep a happy face," he says.

Independence

His mother says Rabe learned to stand up and walk on his own before he turned one.

At 3, he was reading the labels on milk cartons and, later, Bible stories (his parents are Jehovah's Witnesses).

His mother says Rabe would listen when she would tutor his older siblings.

"That was how he learned how to read and write," she says.

Accelerated

When they returned to the Philippines, his mother enrolled Rabe, then 6, at the Cherished Moments Montessori School in Mangaldan.

At first he was in a pre-school class but because he could already read and write, he was "accelerated" to Grade 1 after only a month.

He was always at the top of his class, graduating valedictorian in high school.

Debating team, badminton

Rabe says he initially wanted to take up architecture but the UP College Admission Test application form had an item asking the applicant if he wanted to apply for the shortened medical course.

It was his brother, Mark, a UP law graduate, who told him to try out for the program.

Rabe took his advice and ranked fourth in the entrance examination and interview for Intarmed.

Apart from medicine, Rabe devotes his time to other interests like debating and sports.

He was cited the third best speaker during the Asian Universities Debating Championship held in Singapore in May. He was also a member of his class badminton team.

Senate to probe nurses' recruiter

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE WILL INVESTIGATE a local affiliate of a New York-based recruitment firm with alleged Malacañang links due to repeated abuses in the hiring of Filipino nurses for jobs in the United States.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson filed on Aug. 14 Senate Resolution 73 which seeks to look into the activities of Sentosa Recruitment Agency as well as the government's indifference to the plight of 26 Filipino nurses allegedly victimized by the company.

"The lack of sanctions despite repeated and recurring violations by this recruitment agency has emboldened the said agency to continue its violation of our laws to the detriment of our nurses, who in their desire to have a brighter future for themselves and their families are pursuing the American Dream," Lacson said.

Lacson said the 26 nurses were lured by Sentosa in 2004 and 2005 by representing itself as a direct-hire agency catering to nursing facilities in New York, offering competitive salaries of up to $35 an hour, medical coverage, relocation and housing allowances, free malpractice insurance, free airfare from Manila to New York and generous night differentials.

"But when the nurse-recruits arrived in New York, Sentosa not only reneged on its commitments but also turned them over to Sentosa Care LLC and to Prompt Nursing Employment Agency/Sentosa Services, in clear violation of the contract," Lacson said.

The Senate probe will also look into the alleged interference by Malacañang in the case filed by the 26 nurses against Sentosa whose license was suspended by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) on May 24 last year.

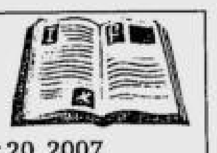
Upon the prodding of Sentosa, Sen. Charles Schumer (Democrat-NY) wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo last year to look into the brewing court battle with the Filipino nurses and to meet with officials of the recruitment agency.

The President tapped then Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor to meet with the Sentosa officials and the POEA which lifted the suspension order after just two weeks.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. accused Defensor of being Sentosa's man but the latter denied that the government was interfering in the case and he was merely following up on the status of the case.

"Philippine government agencies showed their indifference in protecting the rights of Filipino health professionals abroad by not acting on the violations," Lacson said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, August 20, 2007
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Bernard

1st Reading: Jdg 2:11-19
Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22

A young man approached Jesus and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary

The book of Judges tries to organize the loose federation of tribes into a people in the land, calling them to the law and holding them together in the face of many peoples in the land with many other gods. And the people begin quickly to take on the practices of the peoples they dwell with and they worship their idols as well. They would be taken over by the peoples they dwelled alongside with. They always were lost and were oppressed. The pattern began early: forgetting their covenant, worshiping other gods, given judges to pull them back to faithfulness and obedience, and then straying off again to be conquered by yet another group. It is the history of Israel, but in reality it is the history of our Church as well—with the leaders becoming those who stray along with the people and the need for prophets to arise. Our law is based on the 10 commands of Moses but we must move on from there—towards care of the poor, singlehearted devotion to the kingdom of God coming to earth in peace and justice, and following Jesus with all our hearts/souls/minds and resources. Do we go away from Jesus' invitation to closeness because we are possessed by what we own?

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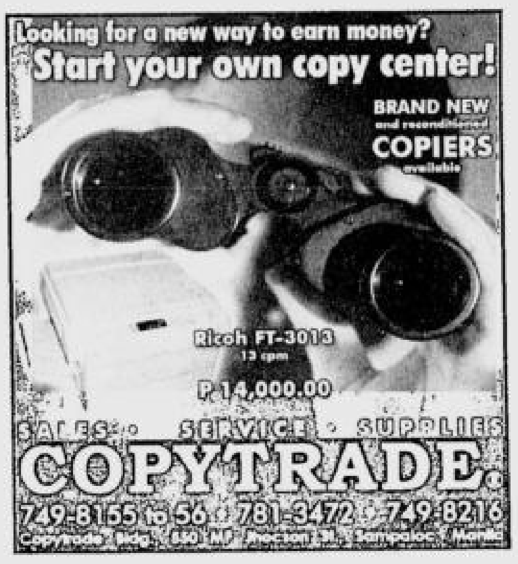
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Bishop rues waste of lives in Basilan

From page A1

tion of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP)—condemned the government's "eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a-tooth" response to the killing and beheading of the soldiers.

The AMRSP urged the government "to persevere in its resolve to continue dialogue and peace negotiations despite the pressure for revenge over the recent bloodbath."

Basilan's Catholic Bishop Martin Jumoad deplored the deaths of 15 soldiers in the weekend fighting in Basilan as "a waste life" and said he was angered by it.

The 59-strong "Mindanao bloc" in the House of Representatives joined in the clamor.

In a series of meetings, the Caucus of Mindanao Representatives agreed to support only "selective operations" targeting only members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, according to Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro.

The Mindanao lawmakers decided to throw their support behind the $1-billion "mini-Marshall plan" floated by Speaker Jose de Venecia to rebuild areas ravaged by the decades-old conflict.

"The current violence in Mindanao will not address the root causes of the problem," Rodriguez, one of the main organizers of the bloc, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman, a native of Basilan, expressed concern over the plight of civilians caught in the middle of the conflict.

Rodriguez said a long-term solution should involve the establishment of effective livelihood and infrastructure projects, on top of a comprehensive education program.

Bishop Jumoad grieved at the continued bloodletting.

"I am very, very sad and frustrated. It's very frustrating when you really work for peace and ways for reconciliation and then, here we go again, there are a lot of killings," the bishop said over the Church-run Radio Veritas.

"I can't help it. I was frustrated last night, really. I'm very sorry for those who died, a waste of life. I cannot express my sentiments this time. What I feel is frustration and I am angry," Jumoad said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Jumoad said the government should consider extending livelihood and continuous education on the "concept of peace" to the young and old of Basilan to help build lasting peace in the province.

In a press statement, the AMRSP questioned the government's equally "violent response" to the criminal acts of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The killing of the soldiers and the beheading of some are truly abhorrent acts. But why should we follow the way of violence, resorting to similarly abhorrent acts in order to 'correct' violence?" the group said.

Despite the heavy losses it had suffered, the military said it would press on its pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. ordered troops down in Basilan to "keep the momentum" and to search for and engage the ASG.

Esperon expressed sadness over the death of 15 Marine soldiers and one Air Force pilot in Saturday's military raid on the enemy's camp in Ungkaya Pukan, and condoled with their families.

Killed were Lieutenants Ludwig Salvador, Jeffrey Leoveraz, Eugene Machise Pinera, Ermin Soloren and Roldan Somera and Privates First Class Rodan Baroy, Reynaldo Pedroso, Peary Simeros, Julius Jove, Manuel Tayaban Jr., Danilo Vergara, Michael Aoigan, Ursolo Torres, Virgilio Domingo III and Eril Labares. The Air Force pilot was 2nd Lt. Claudio Odaondo.

"The directive to the troops is to continue their operations ... the objective is to destroy the Abu Sayyaf," Esperon told reporters in a phone interview.

"The (soldiers') sacrifices will not be in vain because we will follow this up," he said.

Esperon said he was "very satisfied" with the killing by soldiers of 42 ASG bandits, including their commander Furuji Indama, his brother Umair and Alimari Amirul.

Indama was one of the Abu Sayyaf members allegedly behind the beheading of 10 of 14 Marine soldiers killed in the July 10 ambush in Basilan.

Esperon also said one of the M16 rifles recovered from the Abu Sayyaf camp raided Saturday belonged to one of the beheaded Marines.

Malacañang yesterday defended the military offensive in Mindanao, saying the underlying message concerned was "quite clear."

"Economic development, which we draw from the arsenal of democracy, remains our principal weapon against terrorism," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying.

Ms Arroyo also said: "Ongoing peacekeeping operations against rearguard actions of a despised and defeated group are meant to clear the path for these provinces' journey to peace and progress which terror has delayed for so long."

For Task Force Thunder chief Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, the death of the Marines in Saturday's fighting was not in vain.

"It's worth it. Our perseverance in pursuing justice for the death of the Marines was not in vain. Now we can say justice is finally served," Sabban said.

He said three leaders and 39 followers of the Abu Sayyaf were killed in Saturday's clashes, including those suspected to be involved in the July 10 carnage.

Sabban admitted that the delivery of justice was "paid so costly."

But a junior officer privy to the planning and execution of military plans said the death of the Marines was not worth it.

"It's not worth dying for. The command has something to do with it. They planned the operation, maybe they forgot to consider these men because they have personal motives," said the junior officer, who asked not to be identified.

The junior officer said those in command were not after the perpetrators of the July 10 beheadings.

"They're after the head of the (Abu Sayyaf) personalities who have high (rewards) or maybe they need a boost in exchange for a good position. They think we are robots and expendables," the officer said.

Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commanding officer of the 6th Army Infantry Division based in Central Mindanao, said he was also not happy with result of the military's campaign in Basilan.

"It's a pity we paid with the lives of the soldiers. The gains we obtained were too small for the losses we suffered," Ferrer said in Filipino.

15 Marines were 'sitting ducks' . . .

From page A1

who joined the operation with 40 militiamen, said the 15 Marines would all still be alive "if they heeded their commanders who told them to listen to their guides."

Maturan said that a militiaman named Villalobos, who was wounded in the clash, and another militiaman had advised the junior officers not to take the low ground leading to their targets, but a different trail instead.

"What happened was they followed an easier route on low ground," Maturan said. "The Abu Sayyaf position was about 20 meters high from them ... *kaya parang ibon silang ginawang practice shooting ng mga bandido* (so they were like sitting ducks that became shooting practice targets of the bandits)," Maturan said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf forces were on a cliff that put them at a vantage point to shoot at the soldiers below.

"If they had followed their guide, they would have surprised the enemy, who had their backs turned to them," Maturan said.

Maturan said the mission was hatched before Thursday and the troops were supposed to jump off at dawn Thursday. But owing to the delayed arrival of a battalion of soldiers, the Marines moved only on Friday night.

He said the junior officers and their respective teams were to be the "main layer" attackers, while the Special Forces platoons, his team of two militia companies and other units served as second and third layers of the attack.

"The problem was that this first layer was made up purely of young officers. *Maiinit ang dugo at matatapang* (Hot-blooded and brave). They did not follow the instructions of their commanders and did not heed their guides among the Cafgu," the mayor said.

The ill-fated Class 13 was led by Lt. Ludwig Salvador, who was among those killed.

Sabban said the soldiers were implementing the mission as part of the offensive against those involved in the July 10 beheading and mutilation of 10 Marines in Al-Barka town.

Sabban said they were able to locate the "beheaders" in their lairs in Sitio Kurellem in the village of Silangkong in Unkaya Pukan town.

"So we decided to conduct an all-out offensive using the Force Recon Class 13 as main effort, backed up by special operations platoons," he said.

But Sabban admitted that the Abu Sayyaf camp was a mountain lair.

"It was a fortress," he said.

During the firefight, the soldiers had to clear houses and bunkers where the bandits were holed up, according to Sabban.

"I guess during this firefight they came in close quarters battle with the enemy, which was fighting inside the ASG camp," he said.

Mayor Maturan said all the five Marine officers were already dead before 7 a.m. Saturday.

"They were not able to enter the ASG camp, only the second and third layers did. Some were there to retrieve the dead, while the others continued with the fighting. That's what really happened," Maturan said.

The military earlier claimed those killed had been able to take over the camp.

Maturan said the fighting lasted until 3 p.m.

"Next time, the soldiers should listen to their guides," he said.

Sabban said he was taking full responsibility for what happened.

"There are no excuses. We accomplished our mission. I will take responsibility for whatever my men did and whatever they failed to do," he said.

"We provided everything [this time]. There were no more miscommunication, no wrong frequency, no faulty mortars," Sabban said, referring to reported military lapses which led to the July 10 ambush in Basilan, in which 14 Marines were killed, 10 of whom were beheaded.

"We did our best. Our men fought gallantly and we accomplished our mission," Sabban stressed.

But Sabban admitted he was also sad over what happened because he lost "good soldiers that were war veterans."

He said Salvador was among the soldiers responsible for the killing of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani in Luba Hills in Patikul town last year.

The Class 13 soldiers were also involved in the killing of Aldam Tilao, alias Abu Sabaya, the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson, in Zamboanga del Norte.

"Unfortunately, we pay dearly for getting the beheaders of the Marines," Sabban said.

MG-520 grounded

The Philippine Air Force has grounded its fleet of attack helicopters as it probed Saturday's deadly crash of an MG-520 gunship during the nine-hour battle with the Abu Sayyaf.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said he had ordered the grounding of the 17 remaining MG-520s while the PAF was looking into the cause of the crash.

The crash claimed the life of 2nd Lt. Claudio Odaondo, the first casualty of the Air Force since the government began its full-blown attack on the bandit group in the south.

Tolentino said that mid-flight, the gunship's fuel filter light on the instrument panel lit up, indicating there might have been a problem in the fuel line, Tolentino said.

He denied the chopper was felled by enemy fire.

Tolentino said the helicopter tried to reach an island across enemy territory but failed to reach the shore, crashing into shallow waters.

Col. Reynaldo Ramirez, commander of the 3rd Tactical Operations Wing of the PAF, said the helicopter suffered mechanical failure at a height of 3,000 feet "while they were about to return to base after delivering aerial fire support to the troops."

"At that altitude I don't think they were hit by enemy fire. It was mechanical trouble so the pilots decided to do a beached landing," Ramirez said. *With a report from Tarra Quismundo*

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DOJ reinstates gun raps vs Lanao mayor, 3 others

By Leila B. Salaverria

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ has ordered the reinstatement of illegal possession of firearms charges against the mayor of a Lanao del Sur town and three others, as well as obstruction of justice and falsification of documents charges against three policemen.

Gonzalez reversed the resolution of Lanao del Sur Provincial Prosecutor Pacaambung Macabando that overturned the findings of two state prosecutors of probable cause to charge Kapai Mayor Aminola Mangurun, Bokary Abantas, Ali Ryan Basher and Bambang Maminta Mopa with illegal possession of firearms.

They were allegedly caught with four unlicensed firearms at a checkpoint by members of the Philippine Marines in Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur, on July 29, 2006.

State prosecutors Leo Dacera and Juan Pedro Navera, who were designated acting provincial prosecutors of Lanao del Sur, had also recommended that Supt. Gani Paramata Asira, SPO4 Benjamin Tamayo Jr. and PO2 Alykhan Zacaria be charged with obstruction of justice and falsification of documents for allegedly producing spurious memorandum receipts in order to retrieve the confiscated firearms.

Reinvestigation

The charges against the seven respondents were initially filed in the Marawi Regional Trial Court early this year, but the judge later ordered a reinvestigation of the charges.

Macabando conducted the reinvestigation and reversed the findings of probable cause against the accused. The complainant, the PNP-Intelligence Group, then appealed Macabando's findings with Gonzalez.

In ordering the reinstatement of the charges, Gonzalez said Macabando had no authority to conduct a reinvestigation and to overturn the findings of the state prosecutors.

He also said there was enough evidence to support the finding of probable cause against the respondents.

"Verily, the evidence against respondents in these cases exceeds the standard for probable cause required in preliminary investigations … This is especially true as the said evidence has remained uncontroverted. Also, a void and unauthorized reinvestigation cannot reverse the finding of probable cause by the duly authorized prosecutors assigned for this purpose," Gonzales said in the Aug. 14 resolution.

Gonzalez said Dacera and Navera had been designated acting provincial prosecutors of Lanao del Sur to handle the cases before the judge ordered the reinvestigation. Thus, Macabando did not have jurisdiction and control over the two cases anymore and should have forwarded the judge's order to the two state prosecutors.

Dacera and Navera were assigned to handle the cases after the PNP-IG requested the transfer of the preliminary investigation to the Department of Justice in Manila allegedly because of the failure of the local police to complete the investigation.

Even before the issuance of the judge's order for reinvestigation, Gonzalez noted that Macabando had usurped the powers of Dacera and Navera when he endorsed to another regional trial court judge the approval of the respondents' bail.

The justice secretary also said there was no more need for a reinvestigation of the case because the respondents were given several chances to answer the complaints against them, including granting their requests for extensions of time to submit their counteraffidavits.

Medical tourism meet set

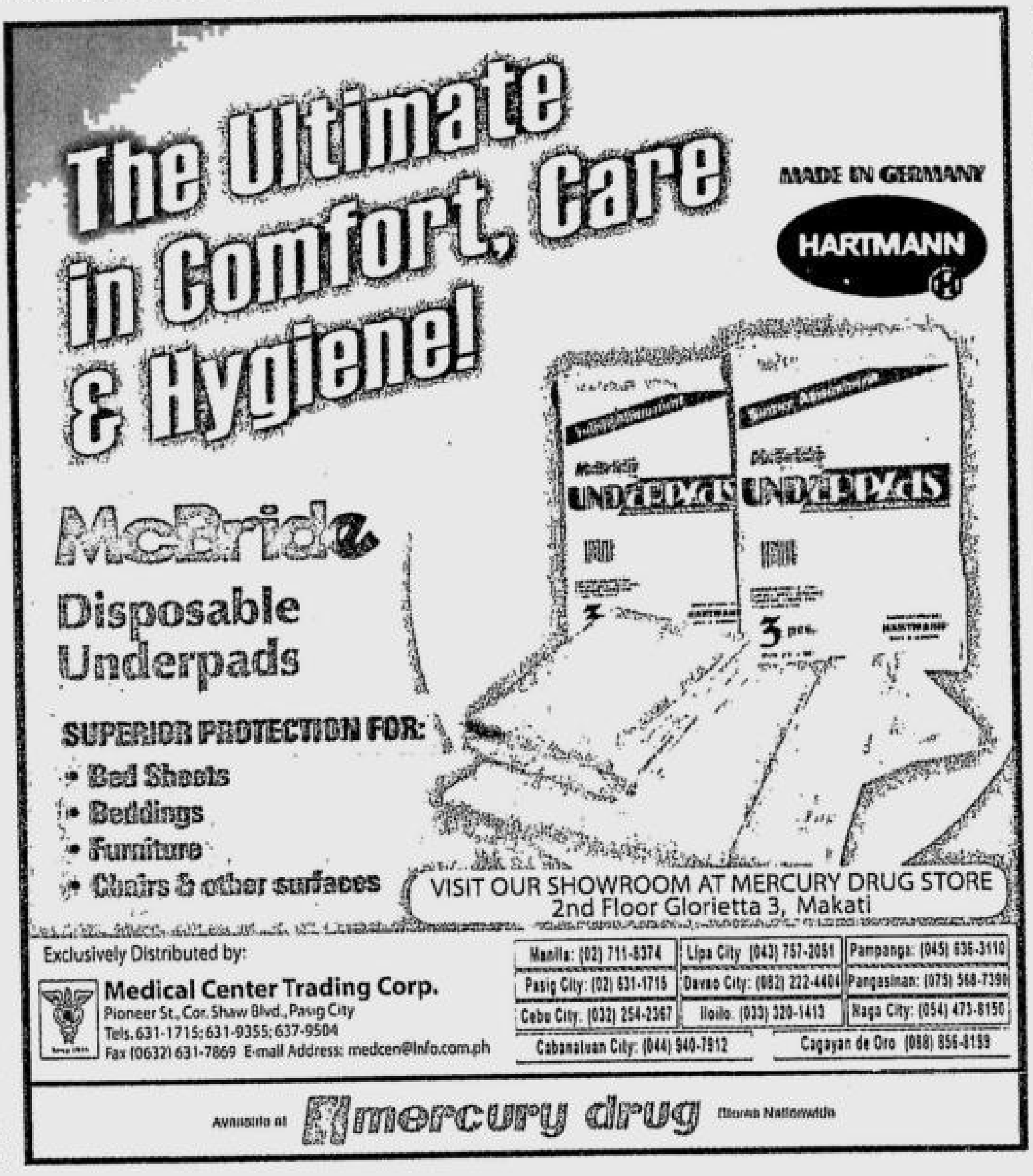
THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism will host the 2nd Annual International Medical Travel Conference (IMTC) for buyers and sellers in the international medical tourism field to strengthen the country's efforts at being a major player in the multibillion-dollar industry.

To be held on Nov. 20-23, the DOT this early hopes to drum up popular support for the conference.

"The Philippines has some of the best hospitals and specialty clinics in the region offering world-class expertise and state-of-the-art facilities at a fraction of the cost in industrialized countries," said Angel Ramos Bognot, president of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas), which will package medical tours, networking sessions and post-event visits to rejuvenation clinics for the IMTC.

The IMTC will demonstrate the country's capabilities in integrated medical tourism care through facility visits and workshops on pre-travel considerations and hospital accreditations, among other activities.

"Medical travel must be a sustainable and holistic experience. IMTC will emulate the experience of medical travelers arriving in the country for the first time. They will experience medical travel in a special events format designed to appeal to the five senses," said Geraldine Chew, one of the judges for the International Medical Travel Excellence Awards.



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Beyond shadows

EDITORIAL

THE PLAN OF HOUSE MINORITY CONGRESSMEN to set up a "shadow Cabinet" is an idea whose time may have finally come. Initial resistance to the idea from other members of the political class, however, suggests that, to this day, too many of our politicians still live in the past.

This is not to say that the plan is perfect, a full-grown Athena sprung from the head of the opposition's Zeus.

The original explanation, issued by Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez, is drawn with broad strokes: "The shadow Cabinet will perform oversight activities as well as serve as critical but constructive partners [sic] in the crafting of priority measures."

The devil, we know, is in the details. Golez declined to name who among the opposition congressmen would "shadow" which Cabinet secretary; the only other detail he offered was a list of the high-priority departments the opposition would monitor. A close look at his list, however, shows that almost every line department is included.

As we said, it isn't perfect. The way the plan was presented is also problematic, because it stressed that aspect of opposition politics that we know, in the Philippines, by the quaint Filipino English word "fiscalize."

An administration congressman's quick retort to the idea proves that the plan was, in fact, received as a "fiscalizing" initiative. "There's nothing new with the opposition's move to form a shadow Cabinet that will perform oversight activities and that will be critical of Cabinet members. That's what opposition members have been doing over the years during the President's term," said Rep. Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City. (In other terms, under other Presidents, too.)

Another political player, this time a long-time advocate of constitutional change, belittled the plan as a pale and inadequate reflection of the parliamentary system of government.

But politics, eminently, is the art of the possible. While the use of the resonant phrase is only figurative, "shadow Cabinet" as a political strategy can lead to certain outcomes; it can, as the expression goes, make things happen.

For that reason, it should be welcomed.

Setting up a "shadow Cabinet" will not only allow the opposition to hold the administration to greater account; it will also allow the opposition to place itself under greater accountability. How? It will force opposition congressmen to do their homework. It will force opposition congressmen to choose an area of specialization. (After all, generic criticism is easy; informed, expert criticism is difficult but more useful.) Not least, it will force opposition congressmen to raise the standards of policy debate and public discourse. (Whether politicians allied with the Arroyo administration will follow this lead is another matter altogether, and may be decided, in large part, at the polls in 2010.)

The principal assumption behind the "shadow Cabinet" idea, in other words, is aglow with possibility: It will help us grow in political maturity.

Consider: Instead of the minority leader (Rep. Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan) or his spokesman doing all the talking, other oppositionists will step up to the microphone. A health care crisis may require the expertise of a doctor in the House; an inquiry into the Arroyo administration's counter-terrorism strategy may require the competence of a national-security expert.

(As politicians will be quick to realize, this setup runs counter to the personalistic nature of our politics; no one leader, no one spokesman, will hog the spotlight. This is bad for those with ambitions for higher office, but—if managed well—a boon for governance.)

To be sure, the character of Philippine politics is deeply flawed; many of its defects can end the "shadow Cabinet" experiment prematurely.

Our political parties remain weak; with one or two exceptions, they remain what they have always been since the first legislature was inaugurated a hundred years ago: political factions, centered around a political personality of fabulous wealth. The reality of political participation continues to reward sheer opportunity over obstinate principle. And the line between the administration or the opposition, despite the turmoil of the past few years, remains a blur.

But as the Greek poet Pindar said: Exhaust the limits of the possible. The "shadow Cabinet" idea seems like a good next step. Take it.

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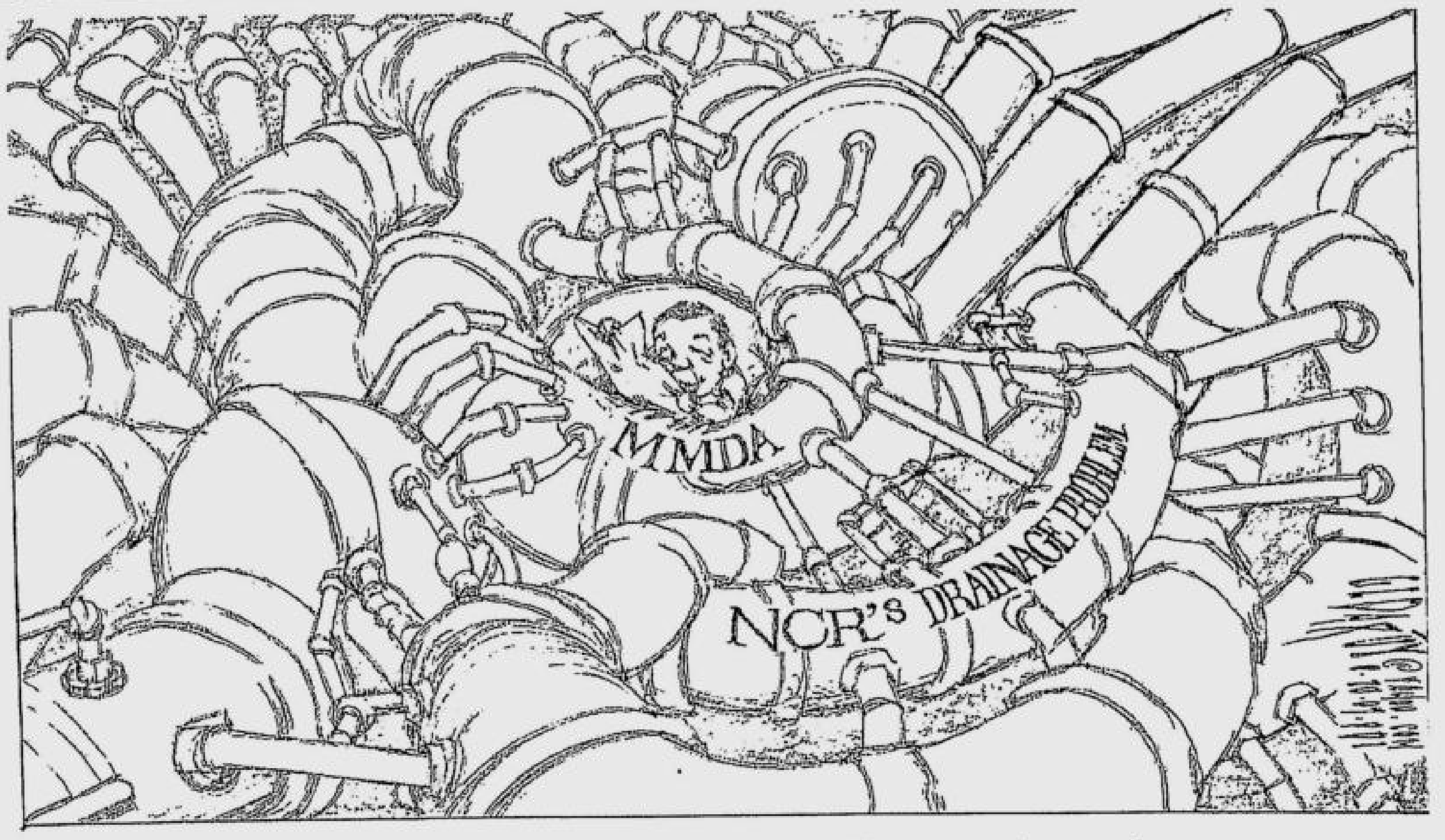

Floods caused by uncollected garbage

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FLOODS THAT SWAMPED METRO Manila last week were not the fault of the rains alone. The bigger culprit is the garbage that clogged the drainage systems, the esteros, streams and creeks. The biggest culprits, however, are the local governments and the contractors they hired to collect the garbage.

One proof is this: Last Thursday when many parts of Metro Manila were flooded, Malabon was not. Malabon? This is the city called "Little Venice" which is more often than not flooded. Even when it does not rain, Malabon is flooded when the tide is high. But why was it dry last Thursday when most of Metro Manila was flooded after the heavy rains? Because the tide was out and Malabon had an effective drainage system. All that heavy rain flowed out through the drainage system. It is the high tide that floods the city.

But why was Metro Manila flooded? Because its drainage system is clogged.

Despite intensive declogging operations by the Metro Manila Development Authority, the drainage systems were clogged again by uncollected garbage and trash purposely thrown into the esteros, creeks and rivers by lazy residents with filthy habits.

This is what happens: Instead of the local government unit collecting the garbage, mayors award contracts to private contractors to do it. They are paid by the truckload of trash collected. Despite the hundreds of millions of pesos paid to each contractor each year, the contractor cheats. He inflates the number of truckloads so he actually collects more than he has earned. This is because he kicks back some of the fees to certain mayors and some of their subalterns.

Furthermore, instead of each city or municipality having its own dumpsite, the contractors are left to their own devices to get rid of the trash they have collected. Quezon City has its Payatas dumpsite, which is due to be closed soon. Others use the Antipolo dumpsite and others clandestinely use the closed San Mateo dumpsite. But most of the other contractors dump their loads here and there in hidden areas nearby—in creeks and streams, in private lots and unoccupied public land. If you will inspect still sparsely inhabited areas near Metro Manila, you will find many of these colorum dumpsites.

This is the garbage that is washed into the creeks and rivers and clog them and block the flow of water into the sea. That is why even rural areas are flooded easily, an occurrence that rarely happened before.

In the concrete jungle, meanwhile, garbage uncollected by the contractors lie in heaps on the side of streets where residents have thrown them. During heavy rains, they are washed into the drains and culverts and into the drainage pipes and clogged them so that water cannot pass through.

Furthermore, pushing stalled vehicles on flooded streets has become a lucrative income for some people. Ditto for allowing pedestrians who want to keep their feet dry to use, for a fee, planks laid out across flooded streets and sidewalks, or ferrying them from one place to another aboard any contraption that will keep the fee-paying passengers above water. It is therefore advantageous to these underworld entrepreneurs to have the streets flooded. And that is why they purposely clog the drainage pipes with garbage. It is a race between the MMDA workers and these entrepreneurs, the winner of which determines whether a street would be flooded or not. Right now, the entrepreneurs seem to be winning.

So what are we to do? First, change the way the garbage contractors are paid. Paying them by the truckload opens the way to cheating. Perhaps contractors should be paid for keeping certain areas garbage-free. If anybody complains of uncollected garbage, the contractor should not be paid. That will make the contractor take it upon himself to prevent residents from dumping their trash on the streets, sidewalks, or empty lots.

Second, remove the squatters from the banks of esteros and rivers. Or at least police them closely. Collect their garbage promptly so they don't throw them into the waterways.

Third, establish sanitary landfills inside Metro Manila, not in neighboring provinces. Nobody wants garbage dumped in their backyards. How would Metro Manilans feel if neighboring provinces dumped their garbage in their backyards?

But where is that place in crowded Metro Manila. Look west, young man. It is there, so obvious and big that you don't see it. What is it? The sea!

Use the garbage to reclaim the sea. In due time, you will have hectares and hectares of valuable land for free. If the Mall of Asia and its surrounding areas now stand on land reclaimed from the sea with sand and silt, why not reclaim an area with garbage? You achieve a dual purpose: You get rid of the garbage and you acquire land cheap that can then be developed and sold at high prices.

Before environmentalists jump at me, I hasten to add that this has been done successfully in Japan, the United States and other countries with very strict environment laws. A team from Japan has already come here to make studies upon invitation of an environmental NGO and came out with a report that the same can be done here.

I have written about this a number of times already but here, again, is how it is done. The garbage need not even touch the water. An area is first reclaimed the traditional way, with sand and silt from the sea. When it is above water level, the garbage, first compressed into cubes and sprayed with disinfectant, are dumped onto it. Then it is covered with soil. After a while, the reclaimed land can be developed into a park, a residential-commercial-entertainment area, a pier area, or a repair yard for watercraft—as has been done in other countries.

Peace isn't just moral, it's practical

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE AMERICANS WHO ARE OPPOSING George W. Bush's war in Iraq—and they are now most Americans—are right to say one thing. If Bush and Dick Cheney and their junta truly believe in the rightness of their war, they should send their own kids to fight. Easy to be brave when you and your loved ones are far from the whizzing bullets or from the threat of being castrated and hung from an electric post while you talk of retribution and dream of empire.

The same is true here. The widows of the ambushed soldiers have already pleaded with GMA not to send more troops to Basilan and add to the number of the dead. The Church and various institutions have already pleaded with GMA to ask questions first and shoot later rather than the other way around to spare the innocent from a bloodbath.

GMA refuses to listen, she should send Mikey and Dato Arroyo to lead the troops and their sister Luli to tend to the wounded. One is tempted to say she should send Mike Arroyo as well to give pep talks, but with him at the front lines the troops might get very reckless and openly court disaster. The only way to lead is by example, especially so in war. You cannot call for blood, sweat and tears like Churchill without shedding some of your own.

None of this is to say that the people who beheaded the soldiers in Basilan should not be sought out relentlessly and punished mercilessly. Their crime is truly heinous, apart from barbaric, and calls upon heaven for retribution. But while at this, why should government be so incensed that 14 soldiers are killed while performing their duty and not be so that scores of journalists and hundreds of political activists are murdered while performing theirs? You become a solider, you risk being killed as part of your profession. You become a journalist or activist, you risk only being reviled or jailed as part of your vocation. Or so it used to be. These days the opposite is true.

Why have we not heard government vow to unleash a war of attrition against the abductors/killers of Jonas Burgos and Musa Dimasidsing?

The folly of an all-out war in this case is patent. At the very least, as Rodolfo Biazon points out, you could be mounting it against the wrong enemy. He has called for the Senate to investigate Antonio Trillanes's claim that a conspiracy among high ranking government officials led to the massacre in Al-Barka. He himself, he says, finds parallels between this incident and the massacre of soldiers at Lamitan in 2001—"almost the same circumstances and the same results." In the Lamitan case, several military officials were believed to have held back reinforcements to allow an Abu Sayyaf band to escape.

The only thing worse than a war prosecuted uselessly is a war prosecuted needlessly. The only thing worse than a war waged against the innocent is a war waged by the guilty.

Far more than that, since 2001 when GMA took over government, we've gone on war footing several times with only the nastiest results to show for it:

The first time was the aftermath of 9/11 when GMA, then an unelected president, took on Bush's airs, declaring that whoever wasn't with her was against her, and launched a war against the "terrorists" in Sulu and Basilan. The subsequent clampdown on information about the campaign in the name of national security—an international group was prevented from moving about in Basilan—left the military free to say whatever it wanted about the campaign. Naturally, they reported smashing successes.

Well, six years later, the presumably ragged and demoralized band of kidnappers/extortionists/terrorists is still there, free to mutilate the enemy and torment the country.

The second time was in 2003 when the US invaded Iraq, though that was passed off alternatively as a war to liberate Americans from the threat of weapons of mass destruction and the Iraqis from a butcher capable of mass murder. Again, GMA, still an unelected president, rode on her high horse, conscripting Filipino support for that war and even sending a contingent of "peacekeepers" there. The contingent came back tail behind its legs at the first sign of trouble, which was Iraqi rebels threatening to lop off the head of a Filipino, and Jay Leno, David Lettermen et al had a field day commenting on the nature of Filipino bravery. Where are the idiots now who asked us to give war a chance?

The third was last year when GMA, still an unelected president, and having just survived the "Hello Garci" scandal and a threatened withdrawal of support, declared war on the insurgents and vowed to crush the insurgency in two years' time. All it has crushed is the hope that the murder of activists, many of them youth in the first flush of life, will taper off, or that the murderers will be caught and punished. The NPA itself has blazed stronger from the fuel being thrown into the fire.

As Americans themselves who have regained their senses after the paranoia and jingoistic fervor whipped up in their brains by their leaders after 911 have realized, you solve nothing with gung-ho, knee-jerk, send-the-marines reactions to atrocity. You make things worse. Not least once you recognize that your leaders may themselves have provoked the atrocity. Indeed, as Americans who have regained their hearing after the loud and deafening rhetoric of war and attrition, enough to hear the words of the Cassandras among them, have realized, you do not end conflicts by slashing wildly at the branches, you end them by uprooting their roots.

Again, none of this is to say that the guilty should not be punished. On the contrary, this says precisely that the guilty and only the guilty—never the innocent—should be so.

Peace is not just the moral choice, it is the practical one.

Filipino or Pilipino or Tagalog?

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SOMETIME LAST WEEK THE BATASAN gallery was treated to a heated debate about language. The spectacle was not quite as raucous as brawls in the Taiwan legislature but it raised some sticky problems which remain unresolved. Concretely the problem centers around the question: What is our national language?

The 1973 Constitution, through Article XV, Section 3, made a distinction between "Pilipino," which together with English was made an "official language," and "Filipino," which was envisioned as the "common national language."

The "Pilipino" referred to was actually the Tagalog commonly in use as distinct from the pure Tagalog of literary writers. Together with English, Pilipino was, under the 1973 Constitution, the official language. "Official language" means the medium of communication for all official acts of or transactions with the various departments and agencies of the government. Moreover, by Presidential Decree No. 155, Spanish continued "to be recognized as an official language in the Philippines for as long as important documents in government files were in the Spanish language and not translated into either English or Pilipino language."

"Filipino," on the other hand, was seen by the 1973 Constitution as a language yet to be developed. Consisting of a fusion of the various existing Philippine languages, it was envisioned as the "common national language." It was hoped that it would be symbolic of the Filipino nation and expressive of the Filipino soul. It was also expected to become the official medium of communication.

Major changes were made by the 1987 Constitution. The debate in the Batasan last week was a reverberation of what transpired during the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

Under the 1987 Constitution, the basic policy on language is stated in Section 6 of Article XIV. It says: "The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages. Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system."

As can be seen, Filipino, which was seen as a dream by the 1973 Constitution, is now categorically declared the "national language." While the 1987 Constitution has retained the distinction between Filipino and Pilipino, it in effect has demoted Pilipino, the more developed language, in constitutional stature. In its stead, Filipino has been made the national and official language.

This did not go unnoticed on the floor of the Commission and it prompted a Cebuano Commissioner to ask whether the command of the 1973 Constitution to the Batasan to develop Filipino as a national language had already been accomplished. In reply, linguistic experts were cited as saying that even prior to 1973 Constitution Filipino was already a lingua franca though not popularly known as Filipino. Whereupon a defender of Filipino obliged with a demonstration. He said: "[W]e are referring to the masses of our people—the ones we came in contact with in our public hearings. They are the ones who say, '*Sain kayo maglakad tapos dini?*' instead of the purist saying '*Saan kayo magtutungo pagkatapos dito?*' But we understand what they mean when they say, '*Mas guapo giud ang bana ko sa bana mo*' or '*Guapo kuno ang kanyang amiga*' or '*Yawa kawatan pala ang soltero*' or '*Huwag ka man magtapon sa* road' or '*Mayroon pa ngani.*' These speakers of the lingua franca throughout the country make themselves clearly understood because consciously or unconsciously, they use words that most Filipinos can comprehend."

If that is a sampling of the language which embodies the Filipino soul, it makes you wonder what the Filipino soul looks like!

The Constitutional Commission, however, was quite aware that Filipino, as illustrated above, was undeveloped and undergoing evolution. Hence the second sentence of Section 6 adds: "As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages." Hence, too, the second paragraph of Section 6 is very tentative in referring to Filipino as "medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system."

Section 7, however, categorically makes Filipino the official language for purposes of communication and instruction while tolerating English also as official language "until otherwise provided by law." In effect , too, the second paragraph reduces Pilipino, together with other regional languages, to official "auxiliary media of instruction." Likewise, the promotion of Spanish has been reduced to optional effort in the same way as Arabic. These last are in recognition of the special role Spanish has played in Philippine history and of the affinity of large segments of the South to Arabic.

So, when Congressman Lopez spoke at the Batasan in celebration of Linggo ng Wika, did he speak in Filipino, Pilipino or Tagalog?

For whom the shells fall

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

IT IS FRUIT SEASON IN SULU. IT IS HARVEST time. It is a joyful time, a time for reaping, for the annual and biannual income that comes from the abundance that has always characterized this lush and fertile land of volcanic soil blessed with a benign climate and almost equal seasons of rain and sun. Here nobody should go hungry.

But not this year.

It was also in the midst of the fruit season when then President Joseph Estrada, upon the advice of his military strategists, also ordered an "all-out war" in Sulu. The order was top secret until the very morning that it was to take effect.

I was in a hotel in Zamboanga on a stopover from Manila when I got what sounded like a frantic call from then INQUIRER Mindanao bureau chief Carol Arguillas, who broke the news to me which was "leaked" to her through the very reliable media grapevine, and asked me to make a choice: stay put where I was and stay safe, or take the last boat to Jolo that night (which might or might not be allowed to dock) and risk it.

Despite her insistence that no story was worth dying for, etc., I didn't even give myself time to think. No self-respecting Tausug or anyone with any pretensions to being a journalist would have taken the other, safer choice.

To this day I still can't make out how I was able to survive the thick crowd at the port terminal to grab tickets for the four of us—INQUIRER fotog Dennis Sabangan and correspondent Froilan Gallardo (who were then both in Zamboanga City on their way to cover the war in Jolo but had received the same call from Carol), my son, a developing journalist, and myself.

And so with these intrepid guys, I became, again, witness to yet another "war" in Sulu. It was intended to finish off the Abu Sayyaf just days after the last of the 21 "Sipadan hostages" had been ransomed and released. Transportation to and from the islands was suspended; all communications cut off, totally isolating the province from the rest of the country.

It is still a source of wonder to me how we were able to get the story, including video footage and photos to Metro Manila and the rest of the world day after day, living on the edge, knowing that any day, any hour, our "newsroom" on the second story of my house could be raided by the military and we would all be hauled off to heaven knew where. How did we do it? Another story for another day.

The September 2000 war in Sulu came on the heels of the "all-out war" in Mindanao against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that ended in the military capture of the famous Camp Abubakar.

This current war comes almost simultaneously with the military offensive ordered in Basilan in the aftermath of the ambush on a Marine convoy and the beheading and mutilation of 10 soldiers among the 14 killed in a five-hour fight.

Both are wars of attrition, only the latest in the series of wars that have been waged on the "Moros" through the centuries since Ferdinand Magellan was killed on the shores of Mactan island by the "Moro" from Jolo, Kalif Pulaka (known to Filipinos as Lapu-lapu).

Many advocates of freedom and human rights, including a group of foreign nationals and foreign countries, have appealed to the Arroyo administration to call off these twin offensives in the two Moro provinces.

Activists and militants in the country have demanded it, especially protesting the reported presence and suspected participation of American troops in this latest threat to the lives and properties of civilians.

Even before it begun, collateral damage was already evident in the people forced to abandon their land and their homes, now numbering from 8,500 to 11,300 and stuffed into evacuation centers where food is scarce, largely living on relief goods from the Philippine National Red Cross and other disaster relief agencies. Health and sanitation problems have added to their misery. Worse, most schools in the target areas of Patikul, Maimbung, Parang and Indanan have been temporarily closed.

Last July 29, a consortium of civil society groups, nongovernment organizations, barangay chairmen, the academe, line agencies of government, interfaith clergy, the Sulu Peace Working Group, after a consensus arrived at in the Peace Forum initiated by the Switzerland-based Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, issued a manifesto called "Harvest Peace," appealing to the government through Sulu Gov. Abdusakur M. Tan to suspend the offensives in Sulu for at least eight weeks, from Aug. 6 to Sept. 9, just to allow the people in the countryside to harvest the ripened fruits in their orchards.

Copies of the appeal, signed by 40 heads of as many organizations and agencies, were also sent to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita; Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza; National Security Adviser Secretary Norberto Gonzales; Task Force Comet Commanding General M/Gen. Ruben Rafael; LSSRC-MNLF State Chairman Khaid Adjibon; Bangsa Moro Armed Forces (MNLF) Chief of Staff Julambri Misuari; MNLF Chairman Prof. Nur Misuari; Sulu PNP Provincial Director Senior Supt. Ahirun Ajirim; and MNLF Field Commander Ustadz Khabir Malik.

There has been no response so far from this government that appears deathly determined to burn down the whole house to kill a few rats. And time is running out not only for the farmers but for all of us.

For when the mortars begin firing, as they have already begun, the shells fall not just on them but on every one of us.

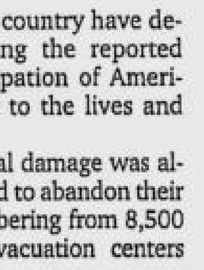
And how many times must the mortar shells fall before they're forever stopped?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

That NP-LP feeling



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE, WHEN THAT kind, essentially good man, Doy Laurel, was still alive, of attending a few sentimental gatherings of the Nacionalista Party (NP) at his behest. They used to be modest, but splendid, in an old-school way, sort of affair, composed of genial oldies who shed the weight of years of hard living and hard-boiled governance to relive being the "young turkeys" (as the Grand Old Man of the NP, "Amang" Rodriguez, used to call them) of their youth. The sad thing is that observers also chose those occasions to make comments about how the mighty had fallen.

Not that the NP doesn't help them. My earliest memory of the NP was of seeing a picture of Dick Gordon grinning under an enormous blowup of the famous (Leon) Gordon portrait of MLQ. According to the crony paper report, Gordon and company were celebrating the revival of the NP; I never heard anything about the NP after that until the KBL was chased out of power after Edsa, and the LP and the NP attempted a comeback.

The LP proudly wore the laurels of an opposition party which had been against Marcos from the very start (from the start of his shedding LP affiliation and joining the NP, that is). The arch-hero Ninoy had been a member of the LP, Gerry Roxas had been LP, Jovito Salonga was LP and, in those heady Edsa 1 days, the head of it. Younger members of the LP, like Wigberto Tanada and Butch Abad, gave hope of a continuation of party spirit. But at least the LP had its moment of glory with the rejection of the bases treaty under a Liberal Senate President. Older Filipinos clucked their tongues over Gloria Macapagal's jumping ship—hadn't her dear old dad been a loyal LP man all his life, but it only revealed how impoverished the LP remained.

In contrast, the NP seemed puzzled about what to do with itself. The old NP men who had—more or less—opposed Marcos still had Unido; the blatantly mercenary who had not managed to endear themselves to the new dispensation (but were too clever to stick to the KBL) had GAD; and the unrepentant of course still had the KBL. So what was the NP to do?

Doy Laurel solved this identity crisis when he mercifully buried Unido and revived the NP, a fragment of which, the Laurel Wing, under his elder brother (the former Speaker) had managed to limp along the whole time. This caused a new problem, though, because it gave the impression that the NP was now merely the Laurel Family Party. An impression solidified when Danding Cojuangco made a bid for the NP nomination (an oldtimer himself, he must've gravitated naturally to the old NP-LP scheme of things) and failed, stirring him to set up his own party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, whose initials themselves betray the rejuvenated NP that never came to be, and which many assumed would never be again.

So for a time, the Nationalistas seemed reduced to living on the glories of the past, and even in this, their selective memory was surreal. They trotted out Quezon's portrait year after year, only to be puzzled by the continued uselessness of this political icon, whose lack of magic I suspect was due to a dim realization among older people that the party that was the true heir of MLQ was the LP, and not the NP. (Hadn't MLQ's anointed, Roxas, caused the division which gave birth to the LP, and hadn't his widow campaigned for Roxas?) Worse, the men who did remain Nacionalista and who gave it its postwar identity (which is as far back as our collective memory can be said to exist today) are hardly ever mentioned. Don Sergio Osmena is one, the other is "Amang" Rodriguez—for whose sake I bristle at the term "trapo" because he was the sort of loyal party man, good human being, and skillful politician who represented the best in traditional politics: and which arguably could, if people like him were around today, accomplish more good than many so-called progressive politicians.

Or was the NP insecure about the fact that if you were to list all the postwar Presidents, the only real Nacionalista who ever made it to Malacanang was Garcia, who was frumpy. Magsaysay was borrowed in an act of political revenge, and had he lived he would have been everyone's candidate anyway, no longer the preserve of the NP (with whose doyens, Laurel and Recto, he had begun to bicker). Magsaysay's ambition was Quezonian: to establish a super-party under his leadership. Plus the NP must bear the ignomity of having welcomed Marcos, which led to Amang's dying of a broken heart, or so it is said. Not to mention FM's cheerful willingness to steer the NP on a course toward self-extinction.

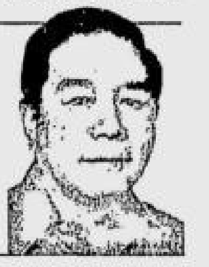
Yet even the last Nacionalista, Doy Laurel, knew enough to bequeath the party to someone who could breathe new life into the oldest political franchise in the country. The LP had managed, at least, to be a part of every administration coalition since 1987; the NP had done likewise, but didn't even get any attention. When Manuel Villar, Jr. inherited the party, former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw sniffed that it had taken place without even a ritual by-your-leave of the card-carrying members of the NP. Villar sent word that he would attend to that basic matter of housekeeping. You can be sure that one of the opening salvos of the next presidential campaign will be the formal nomination of the Senate President by a party convention: or his nominating his good friend, Manuel de Castro, popularly known as Noli.

If we must tolerate parties as a necessary evil, and while I myself prefer Alexander Pope's wish ("I find myself ... hoping a total end of the unhappy divisions ... by party-spirit, which at best is but the madness of many for the gains of a few"), and if institution-building is the order of the day, then Doy's version of a Last Hurrah, a proposal to establish a two-party system by legislation, met with disbelief at his deathbed, perhaps deserves reexamination today. But only after 2010.

Gen. Taguba pays a price for integrity

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, ANTONIO B. TAGUBA became only the second Filipino-American to reach star rank in the United States Army. The first was Brig. Gen. Edward Soriano.

The son of humble parents from Cagayan, Taguba was born on Oct. 31, 1950 in Sampaloc, Manila. His father, Tomas Taguba, served with the Philippine Scouts during World War II, survived the Bataan Death March and retired as a sergeant in the US Army. At the age of eleven, he moved with his family to Hawaii where Tony finished his secondary education. With help from the Army ROTC program, he enrolled at the Idaho State University, finishing in 1972 with a BA degree majoring in History.



REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

After graduation, the US Army commissioned him as a second lieutenant and he served at the platoon, company, battalion and brigade levels in Germany, South Korea and the continental United States. In between duty assignments, he earned three masters' degrees—in public administration, international relations and national security and strategic studies.

He was promoted to brigadier general in August 1997 and, a few years later, to the rank of major general.

In January 2004, the Abu Ghraib scandal broke with the release of a CD full of images of abuse committed in this detention facility in Iraq. The CD included shots of nude male detainees, female detainees exposing themselves to guards, and detainees performing indecent acts with each other.

An investigation was set in motion and since the commander of the 800th military police brigade, the unit in charge of Abu Ghraib, was a brigadier general, the Army needed a two-star officer to head the inquiry. Maj. Gen. Taguba, who was the deputy commander for support, army central command, stationed in Kuwait, was directed to handle the probe.

Taguba's report—officially titled "US Army 15-6 Report of Abuse of Prisoners in Iraq"—was completed in March and laid the blame for the situation on a "failure of leadership." Its leak to the media greatly embarrassed Pentagon and White House officials with its startling revelations of torture and indecent abuse of prison inmates.

Last June, Seymour Hersh, in an article in the New Yorker magazine, described Taguba's ordeal at the hands of US Defense officials led by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Apparently, they suspected him of being the source of the leak. And, perhaps, racism may have reared its ugly head.

On May 6, 2004, Taguba was summoned to meet with Secretary Rumsfeld who was scheduled to testify the next day before the Senate and House armed services committees.

As he was ushered into the secretary's office, Rumsfeld declared in a mocking voice: "Here ... comes ... that famous General Taguba—of the Taguba report." The meeting was attended by his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz (of recent World Bank fame), Stephen Cambone, undersecretary of defense for intelligence, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman, joint chiefs of staff, and Gen. Peter Schoomaker, US army chief of staff.

In the meeting, the officials professed ignorance about Abu Ghraib. Rumsfeld was particularly concerned about how the classified report had become public. He asked the general who he thought leaked the report. Taguba responded that perhaps a senior military leader who knew about the investigation had done so. Rumsfeld also complained about not being given the information he needed. "Here I am," Taguba recalled Rumsfeld saying, "Just a secretary of defense and we have not seen a copy of your report and I have to testify to Congress tomorrow and talk about this."

"Taguba said Rumsfeld was in denial. He had submitted more than a dozen copies of his report through several channels at the Pentagon and to central command headquarters." (Actually, Rumsfeld had a reputation for micro-managing the defense establishment. Nothing escaped his attention and it is unlikely that he would have missed out on such an explosive report.)

When it was Taguba's turn before the congressional committees, I remember watching him on CNN, giving his testimony. He spoke clearly, replying to their questions without any signs of emotion, stating the simple truth without any hint of exaggeration.

After he spoke, senators from both sides of the aisle were generous in their praise of Taguba and his report. Sen. John Warner, the senior Republican on the committee said, "General, I wish to personally commend you for your public service." Sen. Edward Kennedy (Democrat) said, "General Taguba, I want to join others in commending you and thanking you for your service to this country."

After the congressional hearings, Taguba was ordered to report for duty in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs where he could be "watched." Earlier, Gen. John Abizaid, commander of central command, bluntly told him: "You and your report will be investigated." He realized that his career was at a dead end.

In January, 2006, Taguba received a telephone call from Gen. Richard Cody, the army's vice chief of staff. "This is your Vice," he told Taguba. "I need you to retire by January of 2007." No reason was offered; no pleasantries exchanged.

In his interview with Hersh, Taguba said, "They always shoot the messenger. To be accused of being overzealous and disloyal—that cuts deep into me. I was being ostracized for doing what I was asked to do."

"From the moment a soldier enlists, we inculcate loyalty, duty, honor, integrity and selfless service," Taguba said. "And yet when we get to the senior officer level, we forget those values. I know that my peers in the army will be mad at me for speaking out but the fact is that we violated the laws of land warfare in Abu Ghraib. We violated the tenets of the Geneva Convention. We violated our own principles and we violated the core of our military values. I believe that those civilian and military leaders responsible should be held accountable."

Last January, Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, the boy from Manila, retired from the US Army after 34 years of military service.

* * *

Last month, in one of the great ironies of his life, Maj. Gen. Taguba was honored by the Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency with the "Americans by Choice" Award given to outstanding immigrants who chose American citizenship and demonstrated commitment to the United States and its values.

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Betrayed by press club's leaders

TOTO CAUSING STATED IN HIS letter (INQUIRER, 8/1/07) that "They who have abandoned have no reason to complain." He was referring to those who have ceased to actively participate in the activities of the National Press Club because of the betrayal by its present board of directors of the ideals and objectives of NPC as the professional organization of Filipino journalists.

It is like saying that passengers who have abandoned a sinking ship have no reason to complain against the captain and the crew whose negligence, incompetence and cupidity have led to the sinking of the ship. It is like saying that tenants who abandon an apartment because it is full of rats and lack proper facilities have no right to complain against the management. This betrays the sacrosanct freedom of expression which the NPC purportedly stands for.

Even the public has a right to complain if it sees something wrong in the leadership and management of the NPC because the press club has been the beneficiary of a public donation—specifically a valuable piece of public land that was given as a subsidy to the journalism profession so journalists could live up to public expectations of ethical commentary and reporting.

Under the Philippine Constitution, government cannot donate public property to a private entity. But NPC was given this land on which it built its clubhouse because of the club's presumed public purposes: "To uphold the freedom of the press and the dignity of the newspapermen's profession ... to [establish] a non-profit facility for the recreation of the working newspapermen." (Articles of Incorporation.) Journalists perform a public function by disseminating truthful information on public affairs.

But in illegally amending the by-laws of NPC in a convention attended only by around 30 persons out of a membership of more than a thousand (the by-laws can only be amended by a majority of the members), NPC's leadership betrayed its legitimate members. It also betrayed the "People of the Philippines" by extending the benefits of their donation to non-working journalists or non-members of the profession. They did this by allowing members of "allied organizations," including PR practitioners and Internet bloggers, to become regular members of NPC with the right to vote. Hence they allowed the public donation to be enjoyed by those not originally covered by the law authorizing the donation.

This is a crime not just against the journalism profession but against our people in general.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
lifetime NPC member,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Dole plant's closure 'administrative'

THIS PERTAINS TO THE NEWS story "DENR closes fruit processing plant in S. Cotabato." (INQUIRER, 8/10/07)

The story stated that:

1. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) ordered Dole Philippines Inc. to stop operations "following findings that its wastewater leaked toxic chemicals.

2. EMB ordered Dole Phils. to stop the operations of its factory in Surallah, South Cotabato.

Allow us to make some clarifications:

1. Dole Phils. was issued a CDO (cease and desist order) not because "its wastewater leaked toxic chemicals." The CDO was issued to stop Dole Phils. from any undertaking or from operating any machine or equipment that would cause pollution until the company secures the required permits from the regional office.

To repeat, Dole Philippines was issued a CDO not because its wastewater leaked toxic chemicals, but because it failed to secure the necessary environmental permits from the DENR-EMB 12 in Koronadal City. The violation was an administrative issue.

On the second point: It was not EMB 12 that issued the CDO; it was the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) chaired by the environment secretary.

Lastly, Tungko Saikol is the regional director of EMB 12 and not of EMB Central Mindanao. As our director would always emphatically tell the firms in Region 12, profit-making and environment conservation must go together.

—WILSON L. TRAJICO,
PME, MEP, chief, Environmental Impact and Monitoring Division,
Environmental Management Bureau 12, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Koronadal City

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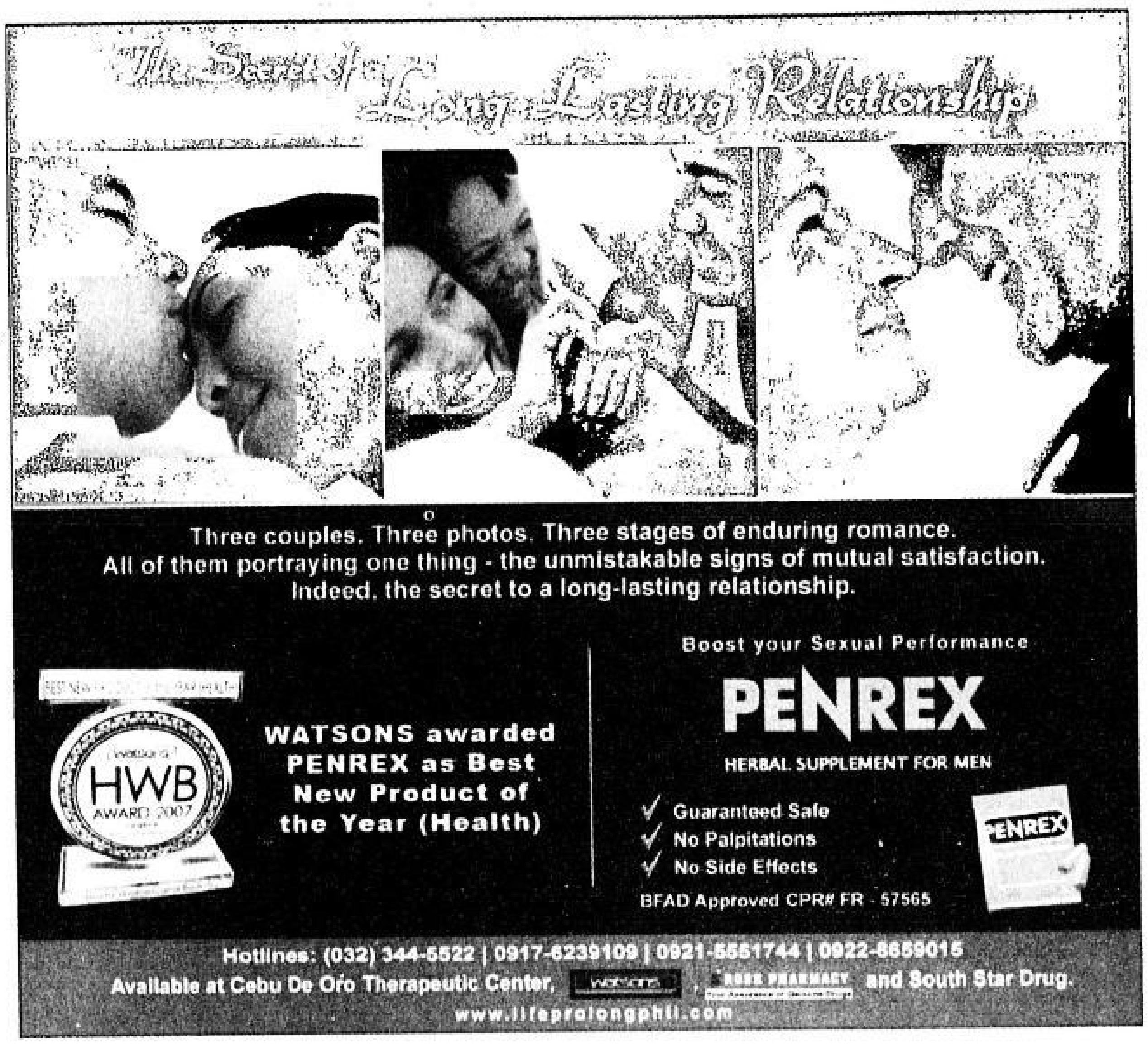
Region 12 is also known as Central Mindanao.

Saikol told me on Aug. 9, by phone, that the order for the firm's temporary closure was issued because of environmental violations. He said Dole Phils.' wastewater had a high content of bio-chemical oxygen, meaning, it was toxic and could destroy plants.

On the second point, Kevin Davis, Dole Phils.' general manager, in a statement obtained by the INQUIRER, said that the CDO was received on Aug. 6, 2007 from EMB Region 12, which at the same time "padlocked our main [machinery] and equipment."

—JEOFFREY MAITEM,
correspondent,
Inquirer Mindanao



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'Double-dead' meat

RECENTLY, A BIG haul of meat taken from "double dead" pigs was seized by the authorities while it was being brought to market.

Will the proper government agency tell the public how to detect "double dead" meat—not just of pigs but also of chicken and cows? The "seal" placed by the National Meat Inspection Service on inspected meat can easily be copied.

Could "double dead" meat still be made into crispy fried chicken, crispy *pata* or sizzling steak?

The profit motive is difficult to control and some unscrupulous businessmen—not only in public markets—may be tempted to fool unsuspecting buyers.

—AMADO F. CABAERO,
amacabsenior@hotmail.com

HR advocates silent on beheadings

I JUST WANT TO SHARE MY FEELings and thoughts in relation to the beheading of Marines in Basilan. The reaction from almost all sectors of society was one of outrage and condemnation.

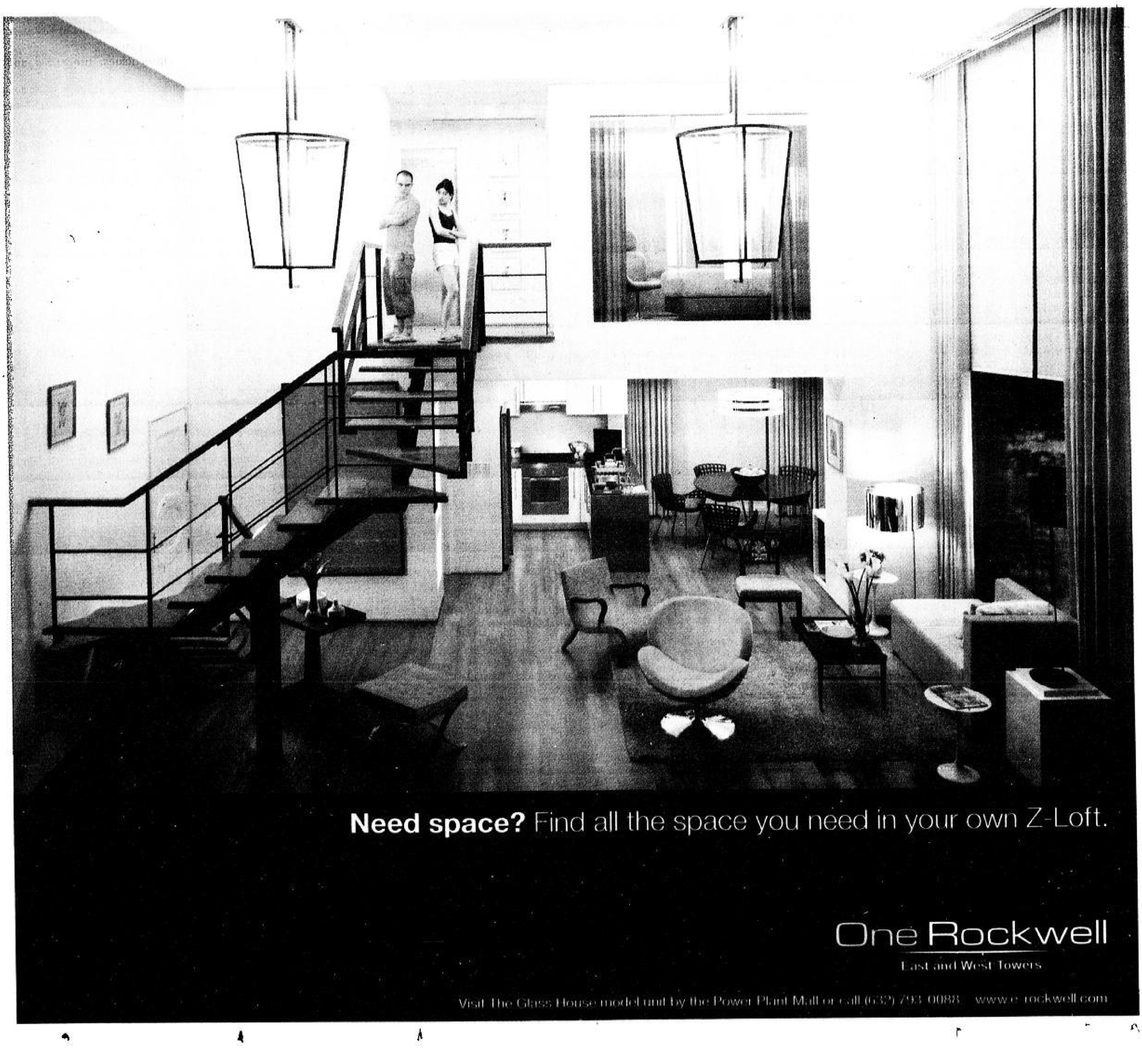
But the voice of one sector was missing. Where was the voice of the so-called human rights advocates? We didn't hear a word from them about the mutilation of our soldiers. I cannot understand their silence over the incident even as the families of the fallen soldiers are grieving and crying for justice.

More often, these human rights advocates are so vigorous in denouncing government soldiers accused of human rights violations. But they are so silent when it is the rebels who are implicated in such abuses.

These advocates betray the international law on human rights when they fail to stand up for the rights of all abused and to condemn the act and the perpetrator as well. Is their silence not an indication of their kind of justice which is selective? Do we now blame the military or the police if they see these advocates merely as anti-military and anti-police militants?

People must now realize that these advocates are not sincere defenders of human rights.

—CPT. EUGENIO JULIO C. OSIAS IV,
group commander,
7th Civil Relations Group,
Civil Relations Service,
Armed Force of the Philippines



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DAR urges 10-year extension of CARP

By Ven S. Labro and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIan Reform sought the support of legislators and other groups in Eastern Visayas for a 10-year extension of a program.

Speaking before a legislators' forum held Friday, DAR Undersecretary for field operations Narciso Nieto cited the agency's accomplishments, unfinished work and third party studies on the impact of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) to convince legislators of the need to extend the program.

"We believe that the 10-year extension that we are seeking for the CARP will be enough to finish the business of distributing land to our still landless farmers," Nieto said. The extension of the program would require additional P150-billion funding, Nieto said.

When the CARP ends next year, they would still have a balance of 1.077 million hectares of undistributed land intended for 633,846 landless farmers in the country, he added. If extended, the program would cover over 10,000 hectares in Eastern Visayas.

Leyte Rep. Carmen Cari told the INQUIRER that she would support the program since it enables farmers to attain "economic security."

While he also signified support for the program, Eastern Samar Rep. Teodulo Coquilla asked DAR for a fair distribution of lands to the farmers in his province.

Biliran Rep. Glen Chong and Northern Samar Rep. Emil Ong, however, expressed reservation for the CARP's extension.

Ong asked that before farmers could be issued their certification of land distribution, all the services needed by the farmers must be put into place first.

Post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads and irrigation canals must first be constructed so farmers could sell their produce.

Chong also questioned the low turnout of the land DAR distributed during the 19-year implementation of the program.

He said that for the last 19 years, the agency was only able to distribute 3.8 million hectares, which benefited over 827,000 farmers.

However, Nieto said DAR would work towards the completion of land acquisition and distribution of 1.077 million hectares of land within six years.

He said DAR had provided infrastructure support for farmer-beneficiaries, such as farm-to-market roads, pre and post-harvest facilities, and communal irrigation systems.

Nieto also said the department had conducted capability building and livelihood training while providing access to technology for the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB).

He also cited a study by Dr. Prudenciado U. Gordoncillo of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños that showed that the income of an ARB household increased from P47,599 in 1990 to P86,854 in 2000 and P100,109 in 2006.

CARP, has been extended for a decade after its original 10-year span ended in 1998. It will end next year.

7 citizens honored on Quezon Day

LUCENA CITY—Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno urged the Filipinos to love and promote the use of the native language as an effective tool to unite the country.

Puno was the guest of honor in this year's commemoration of the 129th birth anniversary of former President Manuel L. Quezon yesterday, where seven outstanding Quezonians received the "Medalya ng Karangalan" (Medal of Honor).

Bonifacio Seguit, of San Andres town and Department of Public Works and Highways-Southern Tagalog regional director, led the roster of awardees. He was cited for his exemplary government service in the field of engineering.

Other awardees were Dulcinea Abcede for community service; Luis Araya, community service-military; Maj. Gen. Fernando Mesa, military service; Salvador Veluz, entrepreneurship; Ofelia Lonoza, education; and former Quezon Vice Gov. Jovito Talabong, government service-posthumous.

Quezon, the first president of the country during the Commonwealth period and the Father of the Philippine Language, was born on Aug. 19, 1878 in Baler in Tayabas, which became Quezon province. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

DAVAO FLOATS
Judges inspect a float in the parade which ended the weeklong Kadayawan sa Dabaw festival.

Ifugao to put up seed banks to save native rice

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE IFUGAO provincial government is putting up seed banks in villages to save and revive indigenous rice varieties that have been displaced by commercial rice, Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said.

During a roundtable with the INQUIRER Northern Luzon, Baguilat said the project would also benefit farmers who would be grouped into cooperatives to manage the seed banks.

He said the non-government Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (Sitmo) has started propagating "tinawon," a rice variety grown in the province's rice terraces, but more than 10 other indigenous varieties, including the "ipugo," could still be revived.

The *tinawon*, which is produced in limited quantities in Ifugao, is sold abroad for P50 a kilogram.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization chose Ifugao as the seventh pilot site under its Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) campaign for the development of traditional crop varieties to improve village economies, Baguilat said.

The GIAHS described the Ifugao rice terraces as the Philippines' only remaining highland mountain ecosystem featuring the Ifugaos' ingenuity.

It said Ifugao has a "remarkable agricultural farming system that has retained the viability ... of the 2,000-year-old organic paddy farming."

It also cited the existence and viability of the rice terraces as a "manifestation of strong culture-nature connections, marvelous engineering systems, innovativeness and determined spirit of the Ifugaos, maximizing the use of the mountainous lands for food production."

Baguilat, also honorary chair of Sitmo, said about two billion farmers worldwide rely on their traditional farming systems.

"We have not had any serious collection of traditional varieties ... other varieties disappeared because of the entry of the commercial ones, while others [were victims of] natural death," he said.

The Sitmo would not resort to a "purist" approach in reviving and propagating indigenous rice seedlings, he added. They would welcome modern scientific approaches, such as cross breeding of traditional and foreign varieties that can easily be propagated and marketed.

He said each town in Ifugao could develop two indigenous rice varieties that can be sold in other countries.

The Cordillera farmers' group Apit Tako said farmers from Ifugao, Mt. Province and Kalinga started in 2003 a seed exchange program to sustain the use and trade of indigenous rice seeds such as "unoy," "wagwag," "uyac" and "balatinaw."

Fernando Bagyan, secretariat member of Apit Tako, said the farmers started the practice when they noticed the deterioration of their farmlands due to excessive use of chemicals and the incursion of hybrid rice varieties.

The GIAHS cited the "aesthetic value" of the Ifugao rice terraces because "it allows the protection and conservation of the significance of its agricultural biodiversity."

Benguet leaders urged to ban toxic chemicals

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Tighter measures against the sale of farm chemicals would help curb the excessive use of pesticides in the province's farms but researchers said bringing the issue to all vegetable industry stakeholders would start a conscientious approach to the problem.

Dr. Carlito Laurean, Benguet State University's research director, said the issue of pesticide use is not new but there remained the need for a heightened public awareness among stakeholders, particularly the farmers.

"This is because the farmers, together with soil, water and crops, are the direct receptors of the effects of pesticide use," he said.

Laurean and Dr. Gaudelia Reyes, Saint Louis University dean of the college of natural sciences in Baguio City, revealed before farmers here on Friday the results of their study on pesticide and heavy metal contamination of the province's farms.

The study's findings showed the rampant use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers but ruled out the presence of pesticide residues in water sources and vegetable samples.

Laurean said the province and its towns should pass ordinances and resolutions that would provide the legal bases and policy directions for the industry in relation to farm inputs.

He said local officials and schools must also help promote organic farming and integrated pest management, two farming alternatives that could effectively slow down farmers' dependence on pesticides and commercial fertilizers.

"Researches for the production of organic vegetables, coffee and rice must be given attention," he said.

This thrust must include the adoption of good practices and the planting of pest resistant varieties.

He said that before the 1970s, the province's farmers practiced conventional farming that was basically organic in approach.

"But for the last 30 years that saw the introduction of the so-called high yielding varieties, also came the introduction of farm chemicals," he said.

Insecticides, fungicides and herbicides are the pesticides commonly used by farmers.

Laurean also suggested that local officials could ask the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) to provide the province the list of allowed chemicals. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Boracay overseer post pushed to save island

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism in Western Visayas is pushing for the appointment of an administrator for Boracay Island as part of efforts to save the island-resort from unregulated development.

DOT regional director Edwin Trompeta has recommended to Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, who also chairs the Philippine Tourism Authority, that the PTA appoint an administrator to oversee the day-to-day implementation of the regulations concerning development projects on the island.

The administrator will also coordinate the projects and programs of local governments and other agencies, Trompeta said.

The recommendation comes amid renewed calls to regulate development projects on the island, which is facing problems of overpopulation and unhampered construction of buildings.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources last week called for a six-month moratorium on the construction of new buildings on the island until the PTA came up with a new development master plan for the island to ensure the protection and sustainable utilization of its resources.

The DENR is also planning to come up with an environmental protection master plan for the island within the period.

Trompeta said the appointment of an island administrator would help ensure order and direction to projects on the island while safeguarding the sustainability of its resources.

"Nobody seems to be in-charge now," Trompeta told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

He said the PTA and Boracay Eminent Persons Groups (EPG) should exercise a more active role to fulfill their mandate.

The PTA is tasked to implement DOT programs pertaining to the development, promotion and supervision of tourism projects. It develops identified priority areas and operates facilities in these areas.

The EPG, created by President Macapagal-Arroyo on October 2004, is tasked to oversee the sustainable development of Boracay Tourism.

It is empowered to formulate plans for the sustainable development of tourism in Boracay and to recommend rules and regulations related to these plans to the PTA.

It also advocates policies promoting sustainable development in the island and ensure the prioritization of major projects. The EPG will help determine the proper land use projects and ensure the preservation of the island's natural and cultural heritage.

While these two agencies have jurisdiction to the island, Boracay is under the political jurisdiction of Malay town in Aklan.

Conflicts between the local governments, stakeholders and other agencies over policies concerning Boracay have repeatedly erupted.

Trompeta said the continued confusion and problems on managing the island is hampering its sustainable development.

Trompeta also recommended that the PTA and EPG put in place a unified working arrangement that will address the various development concerns of Boracay.

He also pushed for the DOT, PTA, EPG, local governments and other government agencies to draft guidelines that will govern the development of the island and pinpoint specific responsibility for its implementation.

ROUNDUP

3 siblings die in Lucena fire

LUCENA CITY—Three siblings died from severe burns all over their bodies while being treated at the Quezon Medical Center here on Aug 15.

Police said that at about 11:36 p.m. on Aug. 14, the three victims—Isabela Joy, 12; Romelyn, 7; and John Phillip, 2, all surnamed Rabino—were sleeping inside their shack in Purok Masigasig, an urban poor community in Barangay Gulang-Gulang in the outskirts of the city, when their lighted gas lamp ignited and started the fire.

The parents of the victims, Rommel and Virginia, left the kids and went out of the house to buy bread, police said. On their way home, the parents saw their house in flame and rescued the children and rushed them to the nearest hospital for treatment.

However, all the children died a few hours later while being treated for second and third degree burns. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Fire guts Gapan city market

CABANATUAN CITY—A four-hour fire gutted the public market of Gapan City on Aug. 13. No one was reported hurt but the fire destroyed at least P200 million worth of property and goods kept in more than 200 stalls there, fire marshal Norman Finis said in a radio interview.

The market, built in the late 1970s, is considered an important facility in south Nueva Ecija as residents and vendors from Peñaranda, General Tinio, San Isidro, Cabiao, Jaen and San Antonio towns, and from nearby San Miguel, Bulacan, go there to trade.

In Palayan City, a fire on Aug. 11 suspected to have been caused by faulty wiring destroyed the St. Cecilia Catholic Church, reports from parish officials said. ***Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Kin of slain exec ask cops to solve case

GUAGUA, Pampanga—Relatives of a bank executive who was found dead last week in the sand fields of Porac town have asked the police to immediately solve the case.

The family of Rolando "Jojo" Javier, 37, manager of the Metrobank branch in the City of San Fernando, made the appeal after police turned over the victim's body to his relatives on Saturday. "I hope the police would be able to get his killers and give justice to his death," said Dr. Arnel Javier, the victim's brother.

Pampanga police director Senior Supt. Keith Singian said the body found in Barangay Mancatian in Porac on Aug. 9 bore several stab wounds and was wrapped in a bed sheet. Investigators recovered Javier's car in Metro Manila. ***Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon***

2 persons trapped in tunnel die

BAGUIO CITY—Two men died on Aug. 13 after they were trapped inside a water source tunnel in an old mine site in Tuba, Benguet.

Police said Arnold Yapyapan, 49, and Jay-ar Apanan, 25, died of suffocation while trying to fix water pipes in a tunnel at Millsite in Barangay Camp 6.

Reports said residents of Millsite noticed that their water supply was cut off on Monday.

Yapyapan and Apanan, a worker of a small-scale mine in the area, joined Rufino Basngi in entering the tunnel to check water pipes there at about 9 a.m. Basngi said they later realized that they were losing oxygen inside the tunnel. Basngi was able to crawl out and reported the incident to the police. Members of the Philex Mines rescue team recovered the bodies of Yapyapan and Apanan from the tunnel at about 4:45 p.m. ***Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Albay cop chiefs sign pact against bribes

LEGAZPI CITY—POLICE CHIEFS in three cities and 15 towns in Albay and the provincial police director signed on Friday a covenant to keep themselves clean of bribes from operators and protectors of illegal activities, especially the illegal numbers game jueteng.

Albay police director Senior Supt. Herold Ubalde said he and the 18 police chiefs would hang framed copies of the signed covenant in their respective offices to affirm their sincere efforts to subdue gambling and other forms of illegal activities in the province.

In the Bicol region, which was once reputed as one of the hotbeds of jueteng in the country, Albay had the biggest number of arrested individuals involved in jueteng.

From January to August this year, Albay police arrested 115 people in 18 antigambling operations. There were only 11 operations over the same period in 2006.

Last Aug. 5, 16 persons allegedly involved in jueteng operations were arrested in Malilipot town, the latest raid conducted by Albay police.

The suspects were still in jail facing charges and none of them has posted the recommended P20,000-bail each.

In Camarines Sur, there were 80 arrests; Camarines Norte, 35; Sorsogon, 30; Masbate, 18; and Catanduanes, 1.

Jueteng operations these days, Ubalde said, had been reportedly happening in remote towns and in islands, like Cagraray, San Miguel and Rapu-Rapu, more than in key mainland cities and towns where violators can be caught easily.

He said these were also the areas not yet reached by the Small Town Lottery (STL), while some of these areas were rebel-infested that the police could not easily penetrate for security reasons.

Ubalde, however, said these factors would not stop them from strictly adhering to laws supporting the campaign against illegal gambling regardless of who operated or protected it.

Following earlier beliefs that the STL was nothing but a legal cover up for jueteng, Ubalde said the provincial board reported having received information that STL results were being rigged by altering or manipulating the draw machines of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) here.

The STL in Albay had been under investigation by the provincial board on the issue that STL was being used as a front for jueteng.

Ubalde confirmed the transfer of many of the people involved in jueteng to STL. "If it is also true that STL results are being manipulated, then STL would be nothing different from jueteng, whose results are usually being controlled for its operators' greater gain," he added.

He added the provincial board's committee on games and amusements also relayed reports that not all bets or collections were being reported to the PCSO.

If true, Ubalde said, then STL is "bookies."

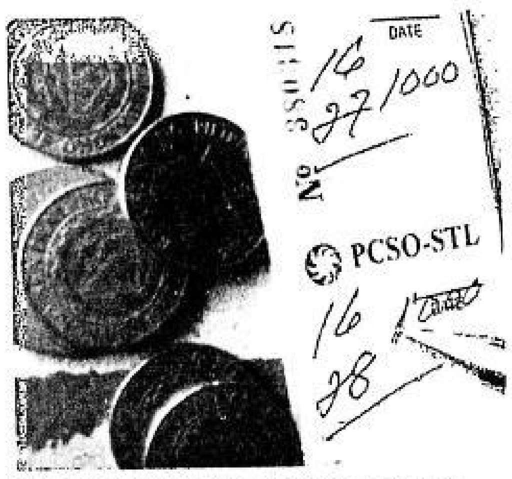
Bookies, he explained, is an illegal activity where smaller bets are not remitted to the STL but instead consolidated by small-time financiers to operate their own numbers game using the results of the STL as their bases for drawing the winning combinations.

Ubalde said he has informed the PCSO of these unconfirmed reports and recommended that the guidelines for STL operations be strengthened to keep its credibility as a legitimate numbers game.

Some of there recommendations were to require STL collectors to always wear their IDs, the STL operators to furnish the police with the names of their legitimate collectors, and to make STL "polietos" an accountable form by stamping control numbers on them.

He added that it could also be an option to televise STL draws in a local TV station and to furnish concerned parties with copies of sales report supported by documents. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CHOPPER CHECK
A crew member checks the engine of the Huey helicopter upon landing in Tabiawan town in Basilan.
EDWIN BACASMAS



SMALL-TOWN Lottery paraphernalia in Guinobatan town in Albay.
NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

PNP negotiating to raise support from lottery

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon said his agency has been negotiating with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to increase the share of the Philippine National Police in the proceeds of the small town lottery from 5 to 7 percent.

"We are still haggling with the PCSO to increase its level of support to us," Calderon said when the INQUIRER asked if he found the STL share to law enforcement units sufficient.

The PNP received P71.75 million or 5 percent of the net receipts of P1.435 billion for 16 months. Gross sales received by the PCSO from at least 16 STL-license holders totaled P1.594 billion from Feb. 28, 2006 to June 2007, a report from the PCSO showed.

"It is support, not share," Calderon clarified on the additional funds the PNP was seeking from the PCSO.

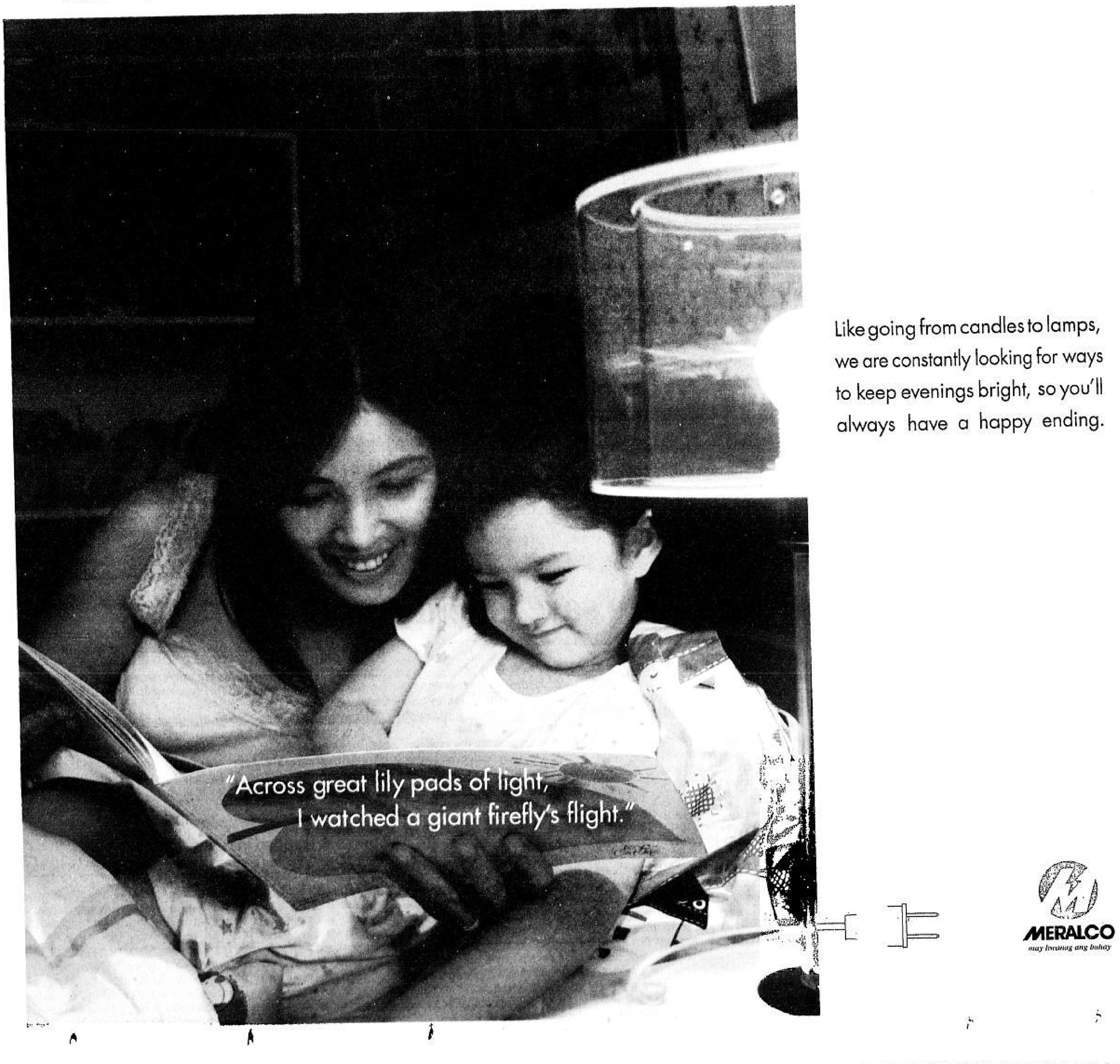
The franchise issued by Congress set the shares.

The government's charity fund got the bulk of net proceeds at P430.51 million.

STL operators get 5 percent as commission while bet collectors get 12 percent from out of the 15-percent operating funds.

From their P12-million share, Central Luzon police bought motorcycles, computers with printers, digital cameras and blotter notebooks, said regional police director Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan.

Calderon has sought a "bigger support" since the PNP needed additional logistics to fight crimes and further curb jueteng, the illegal counterpart of STL. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*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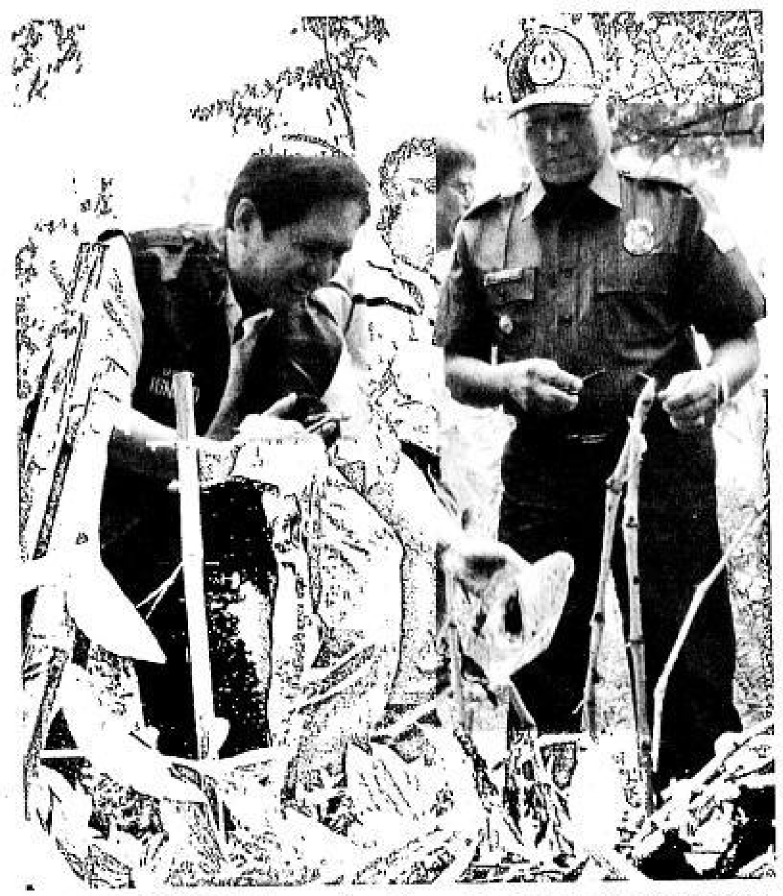

ENVIRONMENT Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio and Bicol police director in charge Senior Supt. Balligi Agnanayon Tira join different government agencies, Army, police, Navy, media and students plant trees during the launch of the Trees for Life project in the Bicol region, held at the Mayon Volcano Natural Park in Barangay Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay on Friday. More than 2.6 million tree seedlings are expected to be planted this month in the region.
NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Slain soldier to get full military honors during burial today

MAUBAN, QUEZON—ARMED Forces Southern Luzon Command chief, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano said the government will render full military honors in the internment of slain soldier, 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Camelon scheduled today.

"He deserves full military honors befitting a fallen soldier and an officer. He's a hero not only before his men but also of the whole Filipino people," Yano told Camelon's parents and only sister when the general showed up at the wake of the slain young officer Thursday evening.

Yano immediately ordered Solcom officials, who accompanied him, to arrange the traditional military burial ceremony for the fallen soldier.

When the general learned that the town parish priest might not be available today, Yano said a military chaplain will officiate at the internment ceremony.

Charlie, a platoon leader in the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion, died in a three-hour gunfight with the Abu Sayyaf in the village of Tambaking in Maimbung town, Sulu province on Aug. 9, two days after he celebrated his 22nd birthday.

The Mauban native has been recognized in this coastal municipality fronting Lamon Bay, as the town's first and only graduate so far of the elite Philippine Military Academy.

"Lieutenant Camelon typifies the courage of our young officer corps. He faced enemy fire with the characteristic tenacity of the Filipino soldier. His bravery will be a source of constant inspiration to every Filipino officer and soldier," Yano told Camelon's family and relatives all cramped up in whatever small space left at the sala beside the casket.

The general said Camelon's death will be the new symbol of the government's determination to achieve permanent peace in war-torn Mindanao.

Yano consoled with retired M/Sgt. Miguelito Camelon, his wife Aloha and daughter Krisha and empathized with the grieving family by recalling his own mother's sentiments during his years as a young Army lieutenant.

Newsmen asked Krisha if she's now inclined to follow her brother's footstep at the PMA but the senior student at the local high school here only managed to reply with an impish smile.

Her father butted in: "Well, if that would be her decision, we could not say no just like the time when we gave our blessing to her brother when he decided to enter the academy. Soldiering is a noble profession. The Filipino people should be proud of them."

The elder Camelon spent 23 years of military service, most of them in troubled Mindanao, as a member of the Army's elite unit, the Scout Ranger.

Yano said the Army will provide all possible help and assistance it can extend to the family. "The Army takes care of its own. We will therefore make sure that proper assistance is given to his family and to the best of our ability to ensure the uninterrupted education of his sister. This is the least we can do for this young Filipino hero," said the Solcom chief.

The general conferred with Camelon's mistah (PMA classmate), 2nd Lt. Alvin Bonayao, who was acting as the "survivor officer" tasked to help the family organize the myriad aspects of mourning, including the filling up of paperwork for government benefits.

Bonayao told the INQUIRER that most of their mistahs will also come to Mauban, about 157 kilometers east-southeast of Manila, to attend the last rites for their slain comrade. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Bicolanos plant over 5,000 seedlings for 'Trees for Life'

STO. DOMINGO, ALBAY—A FESTIVE MOOD pervaded at the Mayon Volcano Natural Park in Barangay Lidong here as about 300 volunteers from different sectors convened on Friday for the Bicol launch of the "Trees for Life" planting project of the environment department.

"I think the turnout here is higher than (Thursday's) national launch at the Ipo Dam," said Demetrio Ignacio, Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who was guest speaker during the event.

More than 5,000 seedlings were allocated for the Bicol launch and a total of 10 hectares from the park were targeted to be used as planting areas.

Bicol has committed to plant a total of 2.6 million seedlings until the end of the year, said DENR regional executive director Reynulfo Juan.

"The DENR-V currently has 600,000 seedlings in stock, and more are being propagated for the plantings across the Bicol provinces in the succeeding months," he added.

Records from the DENR-Bicol office showed that 768 hectares across the region were targeted to be planted by a projected 14,233 volunteers until December.

The activity attracted 36 partner groups comprised of members of government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, the academe, media outlets, private organizations, the police and the military.

The "Trees for Life" project is a multi-sectoral collaboration under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Green Philippines Program, which aims to generate and plant 20 million tree seedlings nationwide from July to December 2007.

Thematic Areas

For each month until December, a new focus will be launched which will determine the kind of areas for planting for the rest of the month.

In Bicol, each new area theme will be spearheaded in a different province.

"For example, the theme for August is watershed areas and protected areas. The regional launch was in Albay, but we will also have simultaneous provincial launchings and mass plantings throughout other watersheds and protected areas across Bicol for the rest of the month," Juan said.

The month of September's theme will be coastal and mangrove areas, to be launched in Sorsogon.

Agroforestry areas will be the sites for planting during October, which will be launched in Camarines Sur.

In November, the plantings will be concentrated in urban parks, campuses, police and military camps and subdivisions, with the regional launch to be held in Camarines Norte.

"The month of December will be an extension period should we fail to meet our targets by the end of November," Juan said.

Juan said the nationwide tree-planting project is a strategy to address the effects of climate change.

"Tree planting will have significant impacts on carbon sequestration, increasing biodiversity, enhancing water sources, reducing siltation and even in increasing the potential for livelihood," he pointed out.

During the launch, he said the only reason the natural park located near the foot of the Mayon Volcano was spared from the onrush of lahar because the forest trees around the area acted as a "buffer."

Juan stressed the importance of commitment to the tree-planting activity.

"When we plant a tree today, we need to come back and nurture it," he reminded the volunteers during the event.

A demonstration on how to handle the seedlings was conducted during the launch to ensure that they stay alive and grow after being planted. *Jaymee Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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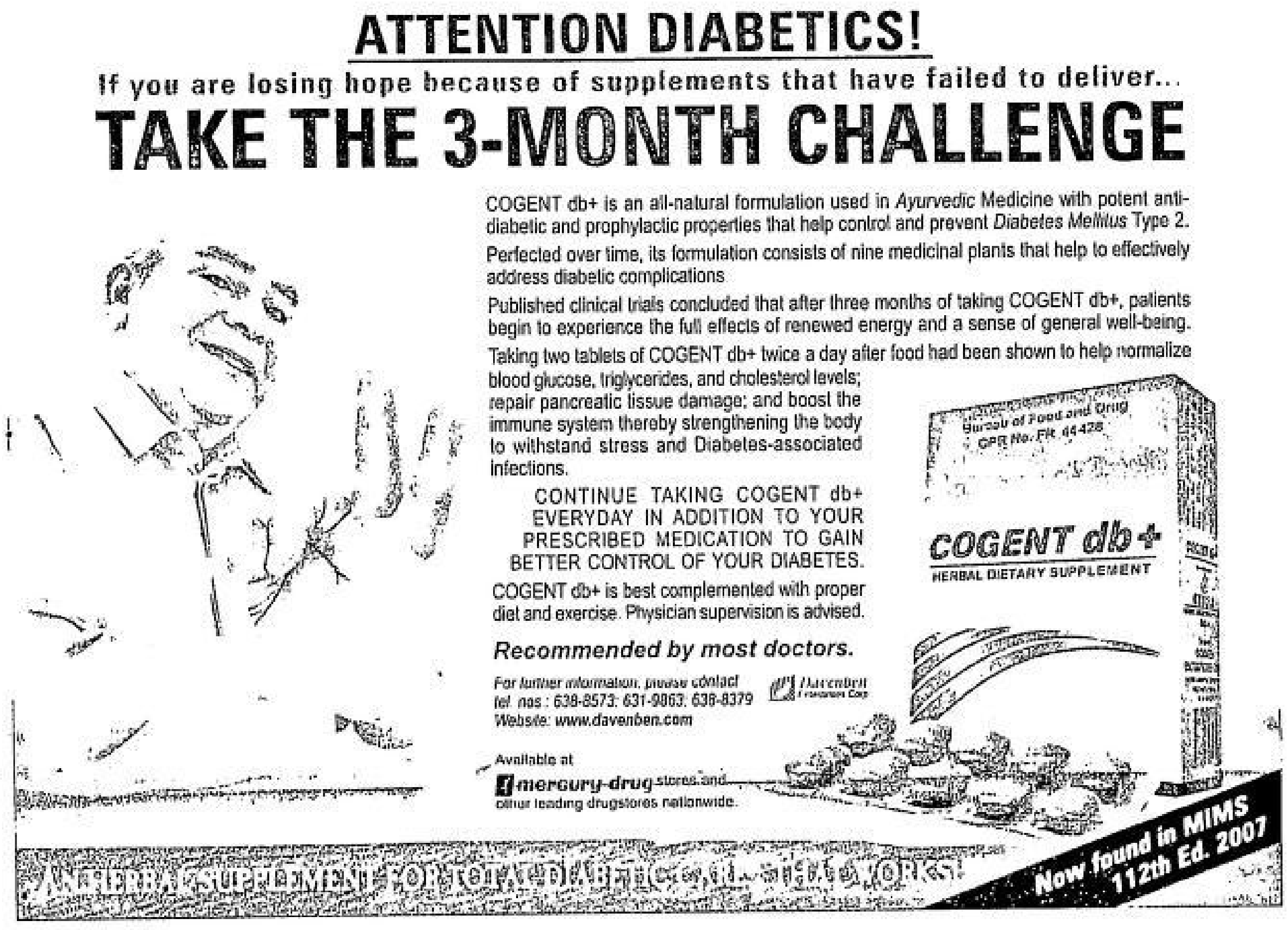

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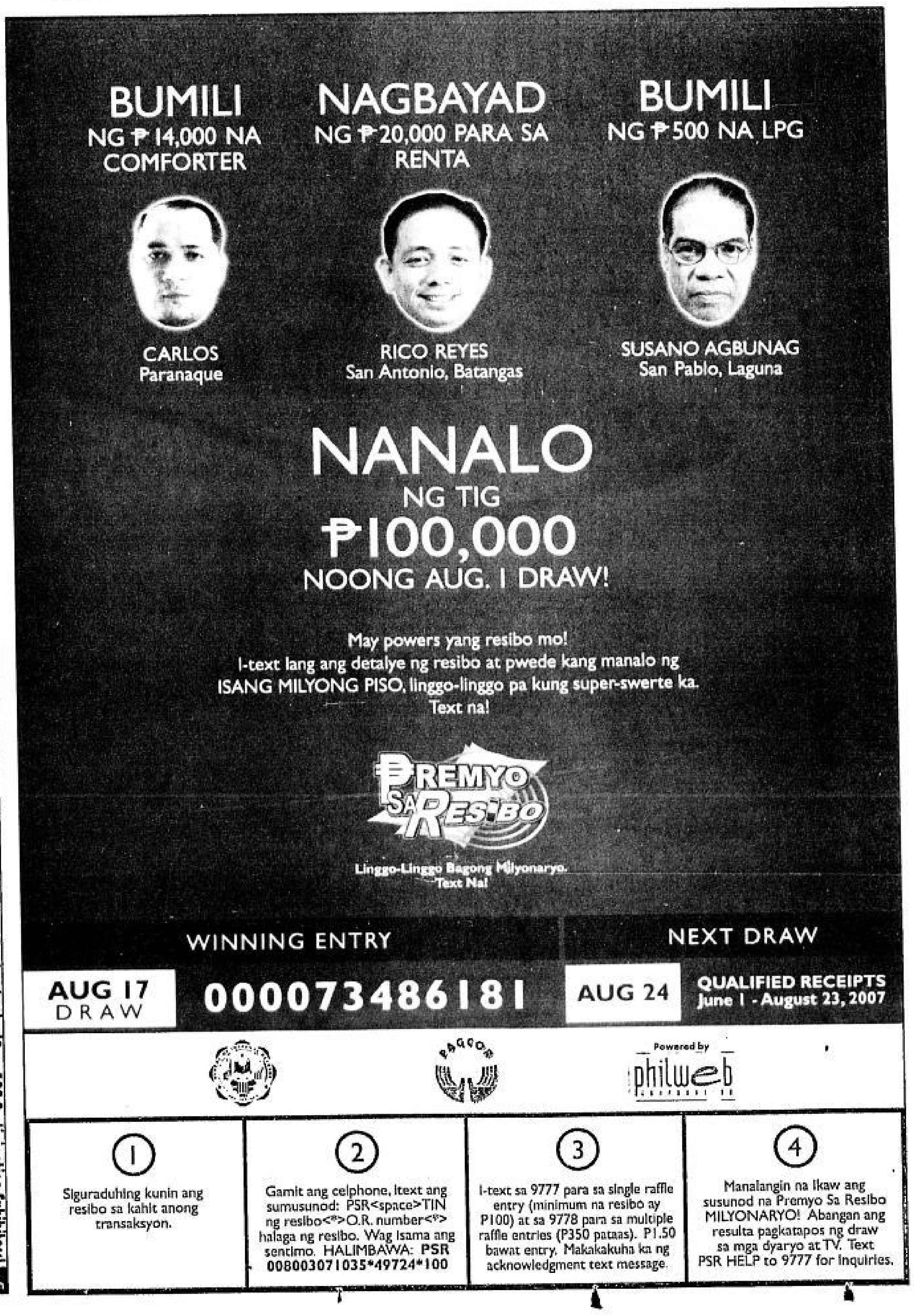

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More Sports on A23 to A26

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Carlito's Way (2), Morning Nell (3), Kalashnikov (1), Kawilwili (6)

Race 2—(Tri)—Arsenal (5), Devil in Disguise (4), Sir Barbaro (2)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Cool Turner/Tatanka (3), Miracle Music (1), Maawain (6), Gigi's Gold (7)

Race 4—(Tri)—Pinwan Queen/Iza Lemon (5), Miss Lilypilly (4), Excusez Moi (3)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound of Silence (5), Real Black (6), Best Kept Secret (1), Hok Kee Hok (2)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Suplada (5), Express Strike (1), Pepe (7), Gentleman's Lady (3)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Prince Geoffe (1), Quasimodo (3), Lovely Tara (6), Panibugho (7)

Race 8—White Princess (5), Hand-Picked (2), Kim Possible (1), Gung Ho (7)

Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Fille D'honneur (6), Dato's Pride (5), Raven (3), Words of Joy (7)

Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—One Vision (1), Raise A Dancer (6), Red Hot Water (4), Cool Cielo (3)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Malabon (7), Daddy's Girl (8), Expiditer (1), Worth Ur While (5)

Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Mas Que Nada (6), Bunker Buster (2), At All Cost/Classy Pages (4), BMI Baby (3)

Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Piroutte (9), Selfmade (1), Dancing Slew (6), Look Who's Playing (3), Queen's Gold (4), Powerhouse (10)

TOP THREE PICKS: Joe Devance (center), Ryan Reyes of Sta. Lucia (left) and Semigue Eman celebrate their selection. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Welcoat taps Devance; Eman to San Miguel

By Musong R. Castillo

WELCOAT ADDED A CORNERSTONE TO its roster yesterday by snagging 6-foot-7 Fil-American center Joe Devance as the first overall pick in the PBA Rookie Draft.

And even if coach Leo Austria described his new acquisition as the "total package," the former PBA Rookie of the Year said that getting into the playoff in his third tournament would already be an achievement.

"While the other teams are looking at making the Finals every tournament, for us to get into the playoffs is OK," Austria said. "We felt that he (Devance) is the logical choice, because he is the complete package (among the prospects).

"He can play both ends, and that is very important."

"I'm just excited to be here and be able to help the team win a championship," Devance, a 25-year-old graduate of Criminal Justice studies at the University of Texas in El Paso, said.

That left Samigue Eman as San Miguel's logical choice and the 6-foot-9 center from Mindanao was picked second overall by the Beermen in the event held before a jampacked crowd at the Market! Market! in Taguig and backed by Purefoods Tender Juicy, Accel and Goldilocks.

"I really wanted to be drafted by this team, because I was named after it," said Eman, whose father Fernando worked for San Miguel and named him after the world famous beer. "I'm just so excited.

Sta. Lucia, as coach Boyet Fernandez had hinted, pulled out the first surprise of the proceedings by selecting California-raised, 24-year-old point guard Ryan Reyes with the No. 3 pick.

"I was just nervous at first," the 6-foot-1 Reyes said. "After the nervousness went away, I told myself that I'm ready to join the PBA and I think Sta. Lucia is a great fit (for me)."

Former Ateneo stalwarts JC Intal and Doug Kramer were chosen fourth and fifth, respectively, by Air21, which also drafted ex-San Beda gunslinger Yousif Aljamal with the eighth overall choice.

Ken Bono, the former Falcon from Adamson who won the UAAP MVP award last year, was joined by burly JR Quinahan at Alaska, which picked sixth and seventh. There were reports of a Nic Belasco for Junjun Cabatu trade being worked out which coach Tim Cone of Alaska refused to comment on.

San Miguel used its second first round selection, its natural choice which was ninth, to enlist former Far Eastern swingman Jonas Villanueva, though there were rumors yesterday that management had tried to trade away that right.

Macky Escalona, the hard-nosed guard coming out of Ateneo, went to Barangay Ginebra as the 10th overall choice.

Teams now have the next five working days to tender offers or lose their draft choices to unrestricted free agency. Players who get offers but don't sign with their respective teams will have to seek release from the teams that drafted them.

A total of only 17 players out of the 44 in the pool was selected, with Coca-Cola tapping Ronjay Buenafe 11th overall and Welcoat going for left-handed shooting guard Ryan Arana at No. 12.

Melvin Mamaclay was selected by Sta. Lucia, while former State University point guard Marvin Cruz was chosen by Air21 as the 14th pick.

Jojo Duncil, the UAAP Finals MVP for Santo Tomas last year who opted to forego his final year with the Growling Tigers, went to Red Bull, which passed on its next selection—the 17trh choice—after Alaska had drafted Ardy Larong at No. 16.

Talk 'N Text, which had only once choice the entire afternoon after trading what turned out to be the eighth overall pick to Air21 in the Ren-Ren Ritualo trade two years ago, passed up on its only chance.

The Express rounded out proceeding by selecting Rolly Masbang with the 20th choice.

Eduque Cup golf at Agui GC today

THE ANNUAL GOLF DUEL BETWEEN the Kamayan Golf Club and Media goes into its third decade today at its original home, the Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City.

Now renamed the Tito Eduque Cup, the long-running golf rivalry will be on its 21st staging with the Kamayan golfers seeking an unprecedented fourth straight victory over the Media golfers.

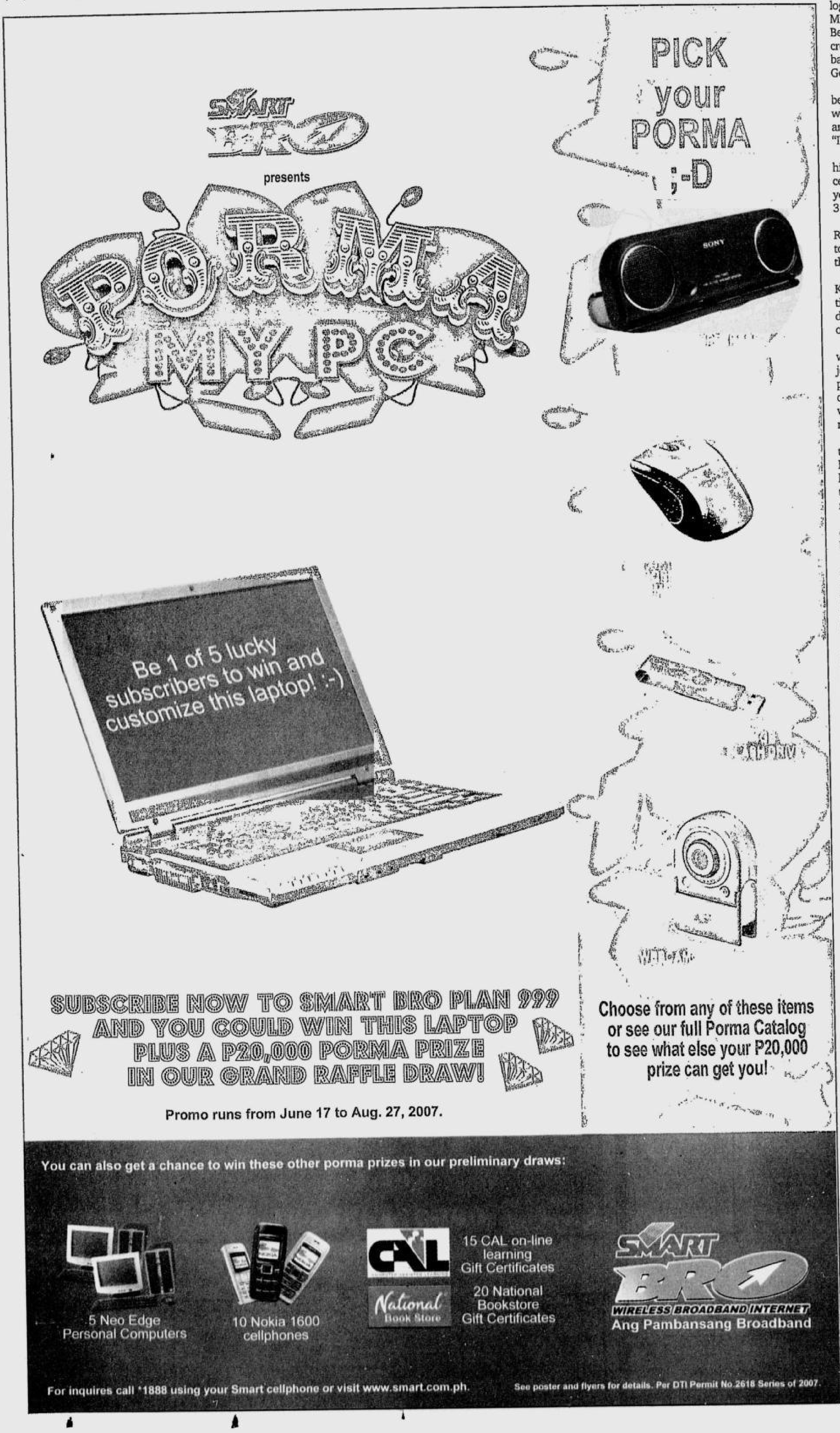
The 18-hole event will be played under the Callaway system.

Kamayan golfers had beaten their Media rivals by a whopping total of 60 strokes in the past three years, including last year's 30-stroke rout at Wack Wack.

The top 10 players on each side will count toward the team's total.

The event is the 6th edition of the Eduque Cup, which was named after the late national basketball coach and founding chair of the Triple V Group of Restaurants. Teeoff time is 6:30 a.m.

Gerry Pineda led last year's Kamayan lopsided victory over Media with a net 65. The defending Media champion is Ernie Gonzales of the INQUIRER.



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DID YOU KNOW

MIGUEL Lopez de Legazpi, the first Spanish governor-general of the Philippines, died of heart failure on Aug. 20, 1572 in Manila. A few months before he passed away, Legazpi was able to set aside a piece of land in Manila for Augustinian priests. The Augustinians built their residence and the San Agustin Church on this land. In 1965, in time for the fourth centenary of the country's evangelization, a chapel inside San Agustin Church was dedicated to Legazpi.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

SC: MMDA can't close bus terminals

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority cannot close down bus terminals on main thoroughfares, according to the Supreme Court which has struck down the President's executive order authorizing the agency to build mass transport terminals to help ease Metro traffic.

In a ruling dated Aug. 15, the high court said the Department of Transportation and Communication, and not the MMDA, was the proper agency to undertake the project. It added that the MMDA has no police power and consequently, has no authority to close down terminals.

Under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order 179 issued in February 2003, she tasked the MMDA to implement the Greater Manila Transport System project.

The project called for the elimination of bus terminals on major roads in Metro Manila and the establishment of four mass transport terminals that would integrate the various modes of transportation like buses, the mass railway transit systems and national railways.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, however, told the INQUIRER yesterday that he was not aware of any order from the President to close down bus terminals.

"I don't know of any plan to shut down the bus terminals on Edsa. What I know is that if the President asks me to do something, I can't disobey," he said over the phone.

Fernando added that the plan to set up centralized bus terminals was not aimed at phasing out the existing ones on major roads. "They are only going to be used for quick loading and unloading," he explained.

Ms Arroyo's order was questioned by Viron Transportation

SC: MMDA/ A20

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While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand to compliment the Express Sales Counselor in answering your queries and offering financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation besting other international banks.

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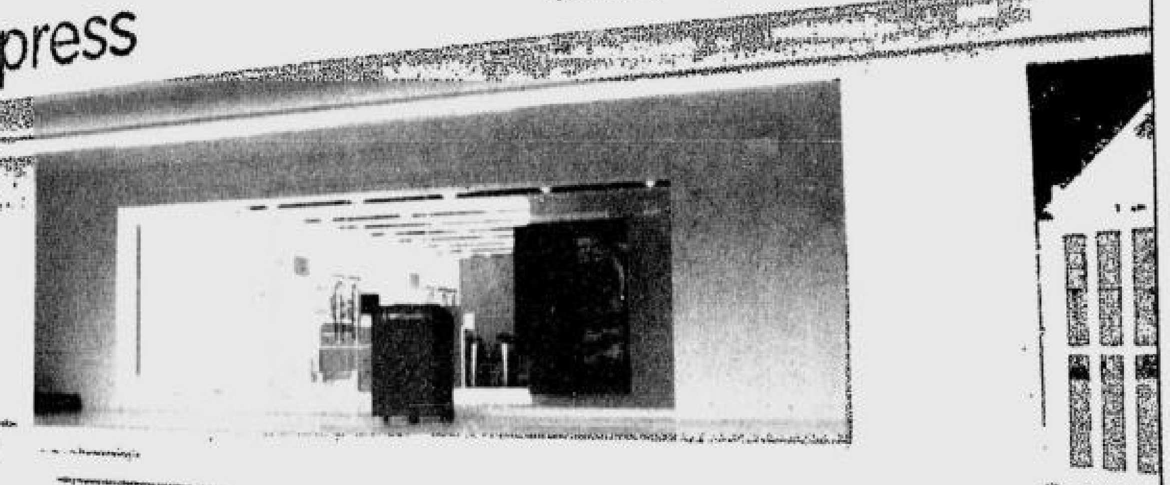

BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just *thinking* about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank - it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying - the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more, Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution–its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

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BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane - a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

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Suspend classes by 5 a.m., Abalos urges mayors

By Kristine L. Alave

METRO MANILA MAYORS ARE CONSIDERING setting a deadline for announcing the suspension of classes in their areas during stormy weather to avoid inconveniencing students and their parents.

Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos, president of the League of City Mayors, said he proposed during a recent meeting with other Metro mayors that school advisories should be issued by 5 a.m.

"Personally, I proposed to my fellow mayors in Metro Manila for us to come up with a consensus for a fixed time when to declare in public the suspension of classes during inclement weather in order to avoid confusion. I suggested that it be done by 5 o'clock in the morning," Abalos said.

Local executives should also inform the Department of Education of their decision by 4:30 a.m. "for everyone's convenience," he added.

The other mayors were receptive to the idea, he noted, but no final decision has been made. Abalos made the proposal last week after lashing rains brought by Typhoons "Chedeng" and "Egay" prompted the education department to suspend classes in Metro Manila.

However, there were days when the department issued the advisory late in the morning, causing confusion among school officials, parents and students.

Normally, the education department, upon the recommendation of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, announces the cancellation of classes.

But the DepEd and the Pagasa guidelines are based on storm signals. Education department officials have said that when there are no storm signals, they leave the decision to suspend classes to the discretion of local officials.

METRO Citizen's call 0918-8985566

Unwanted 'barkers'

THERE'S an annoying group of people I run into on my way to work at a call center who are stationed at the San Joaquin intersection, in Pasig City, near Mercury drugstore. They force you to pay them when they hail a taxi for you even if you don't need them to do this. They are very rude to the point of hitting cabs that won't give them tips. These people are out of control!

TRISHA UMALI, 29, Taguig City

Perennial problem in Sta. Ana

THERE is an illegal terminal at the vicinity of the Puregold supermarket in Sta. Ana, Manila and the police are not doing anything about it. You can imagine the traffic problems caused by this state of affairs. It has been like this for a long time now. Is there really no solution to this problem?

ELPIDIO GABRIEL, 35, Sta. Ana, Manila

Poor Baco residents!

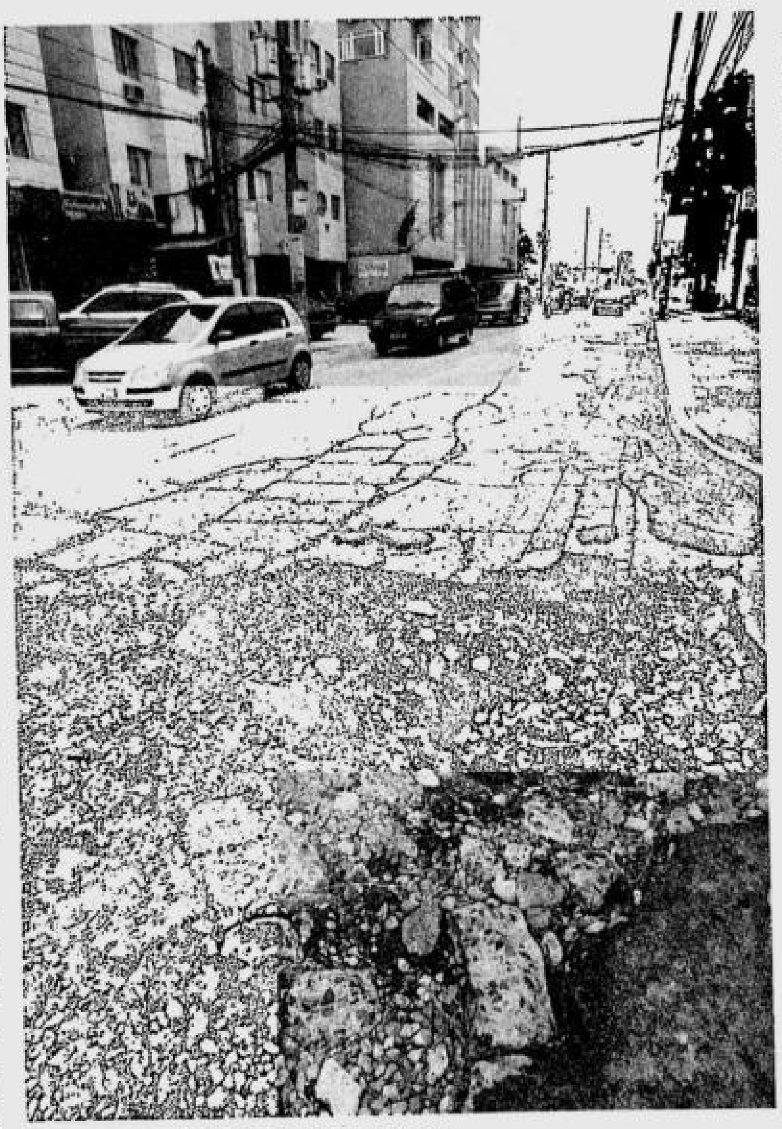
PEOPLE set up karaoke equipment on Baco Street, Quezon City and holler all night long. It's also "Tolda (tent)" Town. No one need die to put up a *tolda* for *"one to sawa"* beer drinking. Heard there's a lot of gambling too. Feuding neighbors are a common occurrence. The *kagawad* who lives on the street doesn't seem to care and has the nerve to say that HE IS THE LAW. When is deliverance day for us poor residents?

MENCHU V., 42, Baco Street, Quezon City

Potholes on Osmeña Highway

I SEE so many potholes on Osmeña Highway! I hope this major road is fixed soon.

SUZANNE DATUIN, 28, Makati City



CALLING MAYOR BELMONTE
A texter who identified herself only as Fortuna, 46, of Quezon City, said: "The intersection at Xavierville Avenue and Esteban Abada Street leading all the way to Katipunan Avenue and Anonas Street is in such a bad state, and has been that way for many months now. And to think that it is just a few meters away from the house of our very own councilor! I hope Mayor Feliciano Belmonte reads this and does something about it because the rainy season is here and things could get worse."

ERIK ARAZAS

Lim bans street basketball in Manila

By Tina G. Santos

PLAYING BASKETBALL IN THE middle of the street is no longer allowed in the City of Manila.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim the other day directed the city's department of public services to order the officials of all barangays to immediately remove basketball courts set up in the middle of streets or major thoroughfares.

The move, the mayor said, was prompted by complaints from motorists about streets that have become impassable due to people playing basketball.

At times, he added, motorists who insisted on passing through the street ended up fighting with the players.

According to Lim, motorists should be able to move freely through the city's streets and thoroughfares.

He pointed that there are sports complexes in Manila which the public can use for various kinds of sports.

Playing on the streets, he added, can be dangerous not only to motorists, but to the players as well.

"If someone is playing basketball on the road and he runs after the ball, he could get hit by a passing car," Lim said.

Chemical leak closes factory

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED the operations of a factory in Barangay Bagong Ilog after a chemical leak was reported on Saturday night.

Racquel Naciongayo, chief of the Pasig City environment office, said in a phone interview that the incident happened as a container drum containing ethyl acrylate was being transferred to the warehouse of R.I. Chemical Corp. on Boris Street.

A forklift pierced the drum, causing some of the chemical to spill out of the container.

Authorities said the drum held 180 kilos of the chemical, adding that about 13 kilos were lost.

Naciongayo said the chemical is not dangerous on its own, but it can cause breathing difficulties when it is mixed with oxygen and then inhaled.

The noxious chemical, which is one of the raw materials for paint, can also cause eye irritation.

Although no residents were injured or hospitalized because of the incident, Naciongayo said the foul odor that spread to nearby houses aggravated the condition of a colicky infant who was scheduled to be brought to the hospital for a checkup.

Naciongayo said the city government is investigating the incident at the factory which has been ordered shut from Saturday midnight until today.

SC: MMDA can't close . . .

From page A19

Co. Inc. and Mencorp Transportation System Inc. at the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The court later ruled in the bus companies' favor and said EO 179 was "an unreasonable exercise of police power" and that the closure of the terminals was not provided for under the MMDA charter.

The lower court's decision prompted Fernando and then Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

In its ruling, the high court lauded the MMDA's efforts to solve the worsening traffic problem in the metropolis. But it added that it could not uphold the project since it found EO 179 to be null and void because the MMDA has no authority to implement it.

According to the high tribunal, the DOTC is the primary policy, planning, implementing and regulating entity to promote, develop and regulate networks of transportation and communication.

"These efforts are commendable, to say the least, in the face of the abominable traffic situation of our roads day in and day out. This Court can only interpret, not change the law, however," the high court said. "No matter how noble the intentions of the MMDA may be then, any plan, strategy or project which it is not authorized to implement cannot pass muster."

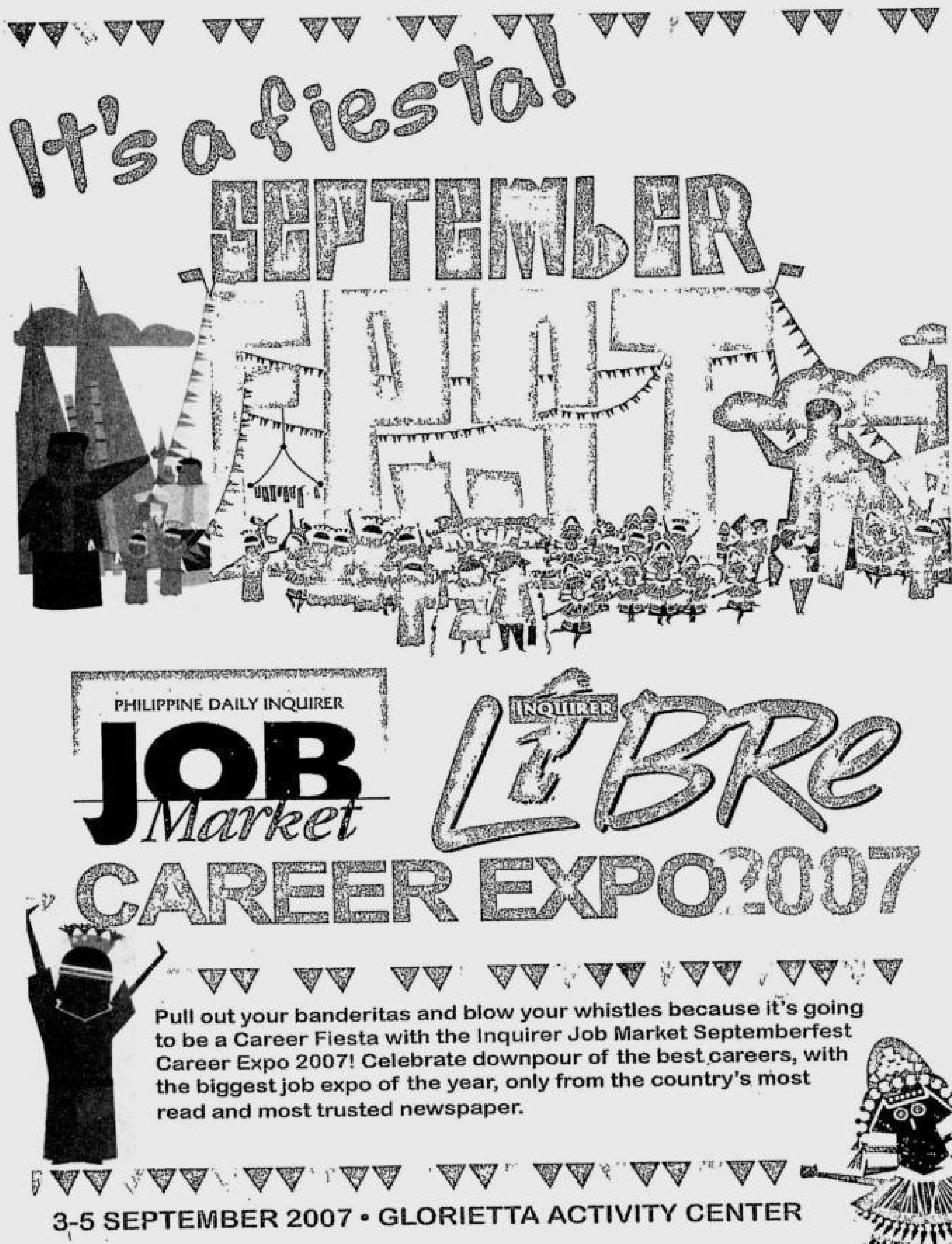
According to the high court, the President has the power to delegate her functions but these should be assigned to the proper departments.

It said that under EO 125 that created the DOTC and its precursor, the department has the responsibility of implementing and administering transportation projects.

"The authority of the President to order the implementation of the project notwithstanding, the designation of the MMDA as the implementing agency for the project may not be sustained," the high tribunal said.

It added that under the MMDA charter, the agency functions as an administrative, coordinating and policy-setting body. As a result, it has no authority to implement the mass transport system project as provided for under EO 179 and cannot order the closure of the bus terminals, it pointed out.

Closing down the terminals would also be a violation of the Public Service Act that requires provincial bus operators to establish and maintain vehicle parking areas or passenger terminals, the high court said. *With DJ Yap*



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CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD

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The Career Executive Service Board (CESB) announces that:

1. **Barretto, Serafin Jr. Petronio,** Jail Sr. Supt./ Regional Director
   Bureau of Jail Management and Penology-NCR
2. **Baua, Maria Lourdes Taguinod,** Assistant Secretary
3. **Brioso, Rudy Palanas,** Plant Manager
   National Power Corporation (Pulangi IV HEP
4. **Donato, Ellen Bawing,** Schools Division Superintendent
   Department of Education (Division of Baguio City)
5. **Laureano, Carmelita Amat,** Assistant Vice-President
   PhilHealth – IV-A
6. **Mantilla, Chona Moralda,** OIC, Regional Director
   Department of Labor and Employment – Caraga Region
7. **Rimando, Milagros Aro,** Regional Director
   National Economic and Development Authority–II
8. **Valera, Joel Batac,** Regional Caretaker
   Department of Trade and Industry
9. **Villaseca, Rosalinda Espra**, Administrator & Concurrent Officer-In-Charge,
   Cooperative Development Authority

are the FINALISTS in the 2007 Search for the Outstanding Career Executive Officers (CEOs) Program.

The CESB requests for ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION (whether POSITIVE or NEGATIVE) from any source about the above-mentioned finalists. The said information must be sent to and received by the CESB not later than Friday, 7 SEPTEMBER 2007. All information received by CESB beyond the said date shall no longer be considered in the final deliberations for determining the competition winners.

ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED BY CESB SHALL BE CONSIDERED WITH STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Kindly forward the said information to the:

Office of the Executive Director
CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

181 Chinese trapped in mine feared dead

XINTAI, CHINA—DISTRAUGHT RELATIVES protested and demanded answers Sunday, two days after a collapsed dike in eastern China flooded two coal mines, leaving 181 workers missing and feared dead.

State media said the breach in the dike in Shandong province had been closed early Sunday and pipes and high-speed pumps installed, but gave no indication if there were any signs of life.

The Huayuan Mining Co. mine flooded Friday afternoon when the Wen river burst a dike, sending water pouring into a shaft and trapping 172 miners, Xinhua and state television said.

Nine more miners were trapped when water poured into a nearby mine shaft. Both are about 600 kilometers southeast of Beijing.

Officials blocked access to the mine, but upset family members could be seen arriving at the gates to a compound that appeared to house offices of the company.

At one gate, about 30 relatives and an equal number of bystanders yelled at guards and officials for information. Several relatives were roughed up and one man showed his torn shirt.

One woman whose husband was trapped, Ren Hua, said she was called Friday and told there was no problem and that water was being pumped out of the mine.

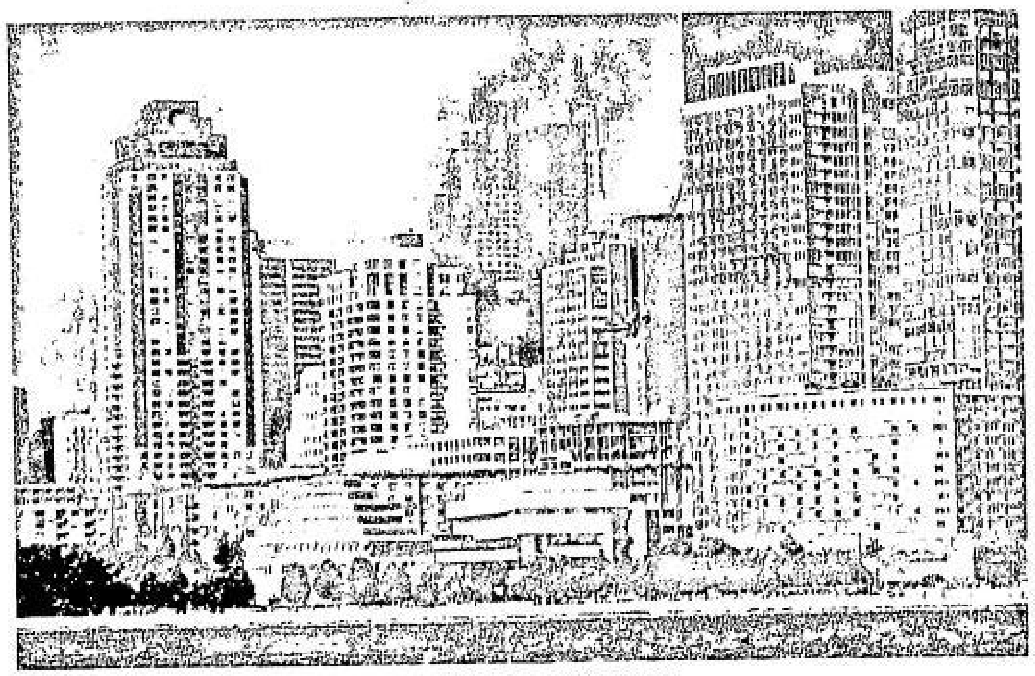
But when she arrived Saturday with her 11-year-old son she found the pumping had not started.

"We want to know how much work has been done and whether they are drawing off the water," she said, crying.

Others also complained of a lack of information, saying no lists of trapped miners had been given out.

"No one has said anything about what is happening," said Li Chuanmei, whose 42-year-old brother was missing.

"They have not said if there are any survivors. They are treating these people like they are sacrificial goods. You would think an official would come out to tell us what is going on, whether there are any signs of life, whether they are dead or live," she said. *AP*



BLAZE NEAR GROUND ZERO KILLS 2 FIREMEN

Smoke rises from the Deutsche Bank Building (center), bordering ground zero in New York, Aug. 18. The seven-alarm fire ripped through the abandoned skyscraper next to ground zero in Lower Manhattan, killing two firefighters who were responding to the blaze. AP

German woman abducted in Kabul; talks for South Korean hostages over

KABUL—AFGHAN AUTHORITIES were grappling with a third hostage crisis involving foreigners Saturday after a German woman was abducted by armed men in the capital Kabul, officials and witnesses said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the woman's abduction, which one local police source said was the work of a criminal gang—not the Taliban militants holding 19 South Korean aid workers and a German engineer elsewhere.

Members of the hardline militia have also kidnapped four Afghan engineers working on a bridge project in the south of the central Asian country.

In Kabul, Afghan officials confirmed the abduction of the German woman, but gave little details about the circumstances of the kidnapping.

The Taliban usually claim immediate responsibility for abductions, but have so far made no comment on the German woman's disappearance.

The Taliban and their al-Qaida backers have said kidnapping foreigners is a new strategy in their aim of forcing the withdrawal of international troops from the country.

Earlier Saturday, a spokesman for the hardline militia said the Taliban were deciding the fate of the Koreans, abducted in volatile southern Ghazni province nearly a month ago, as negotiations aimed at securing their release had failed.

The Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, said further negotiations seemed unlikely.

The extremists are also holding a German man, Rudolph Blechschmidt, 62, who was kidnapped with a colleague on July 18 in Wardak province.

The other German man suffered circulatory failure a few days after his capture and was shot dead by his captors.

And Kandahar police chief Sayed Aqa Saqib said the four Afghan engineers were taken hostage on Friday when militants opened fire on a construction site in Shah Wali Kot district, killing one labourer in the process.

The Afghan government has said it will not bow to the Taliban demands as doing so would help create a kidnapping industry. *AFP*

Clinton bandwagon unstoppable?

By Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON—POWERED BY POLISHED debate showings, gaping opinion poll leads, and a pitch-perfect political machine, Hillary Clinton seems to be barnstorming toward the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

CLINTON AP

Nearly five months before first caucus and primary elections, Clinton's near blemish-free campaign is outpacing rivals Barack Obama and John Edwards.

"If she continues to campaign without making a major mistake, it's hard to see how anybody beats her," said Cary Covington, professor of political science at the University of Iowa.

"It is a lot like a chess match, and she has the superior board position."

Yet, US history is littered with the figurative graves of past front-runners. At the equivalent stage of the 2004 race, Sen. Joseph Lieberman led national Democratic polls and Howard Dean was top in key states.

Both campaigns quickly fizzled.

So, there is still time for Clinton to make a killer error, or for one of her rivals to catch fire.

In Democratic debates, Clinton "is coming across as much more seasoned, much more experienced," said Costas Panagopoulos of Fordham University's campaigns management program.

In a Quinnipiac University poll last week, Clinton led Obama by 36 percent to 21 percent among Democratic voters.

An average of national polls by website Real Clear Politics put Clinton on 39 percent, Obama on 21 and Edwards on 12 percent.

She also tops potential match-ups against Republicans—edging out top Republican Rudolph Giuliani by 46 percent to 43 percent in the Quinnipiac poll.

Fifty-nine percent of Democratic primary voters surveyed by CBS last week felt Clinton had the "right experience" to be president, compared to just 29 percent for Obama.

Clinton is also posing as the best candidate to battle Republicans.

"For 15 years, I have stood up against the right-wing machine, and I've come out stronger," she said in a debate in Chicago.

"If you want a winner who knows how to take them on, I'm your girl."

Clinton's political machine meanwhile functions like a shadow White House, locking horns with the Bush administration on top issues, with master campaigner, former President Bill Clinton just off stage.

"She has always been good, she has the best advisor in the business, it is a very smart team and they know what they are doing," said Dan Shea, professor of politics at Allegheny College, Pennsylvania. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Law may permit broader spying on US citizens

WASHINGTON—Broad new surveillance powers approved by Congress this month could allow the Bush administration to conduct spy operations that go well beyond wiretapping to include— without court approval—certain types of physical searches of US citizens and the collection of their business records, Democratic congressional officials and other experts said. Administration officials acknowledged they had heard such concerns from Democrats in Congress recently, and that there was a continuing debate over the meaning of the legislative language. But they said the Democrats were simply raising theoretical questions based on a harsh interpretation of the legislation. *NYT*

Looting, infection spread in quake-hit Peru

PISCO, Peru—President Alan Garcia Saturday threatened a curfew to stop looting in earthquake-stricken areas of southern Peru, where health authorities are battling the spread of infectious diseases. Amid increasing reports of looting and assaults, Garcia ordered more troops to the quake-stricken area and promised that authorities would keep the peace "whatever the cost." On the third day after the massive 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck Wednesday, the official toll remained at 500 and more than 1,600 injured. But the number of missing is still unknown, and lacking official figures, news media estimate the number of people affected by the quake at 200,000. *AFP*

Pet camel kills woman in Australia

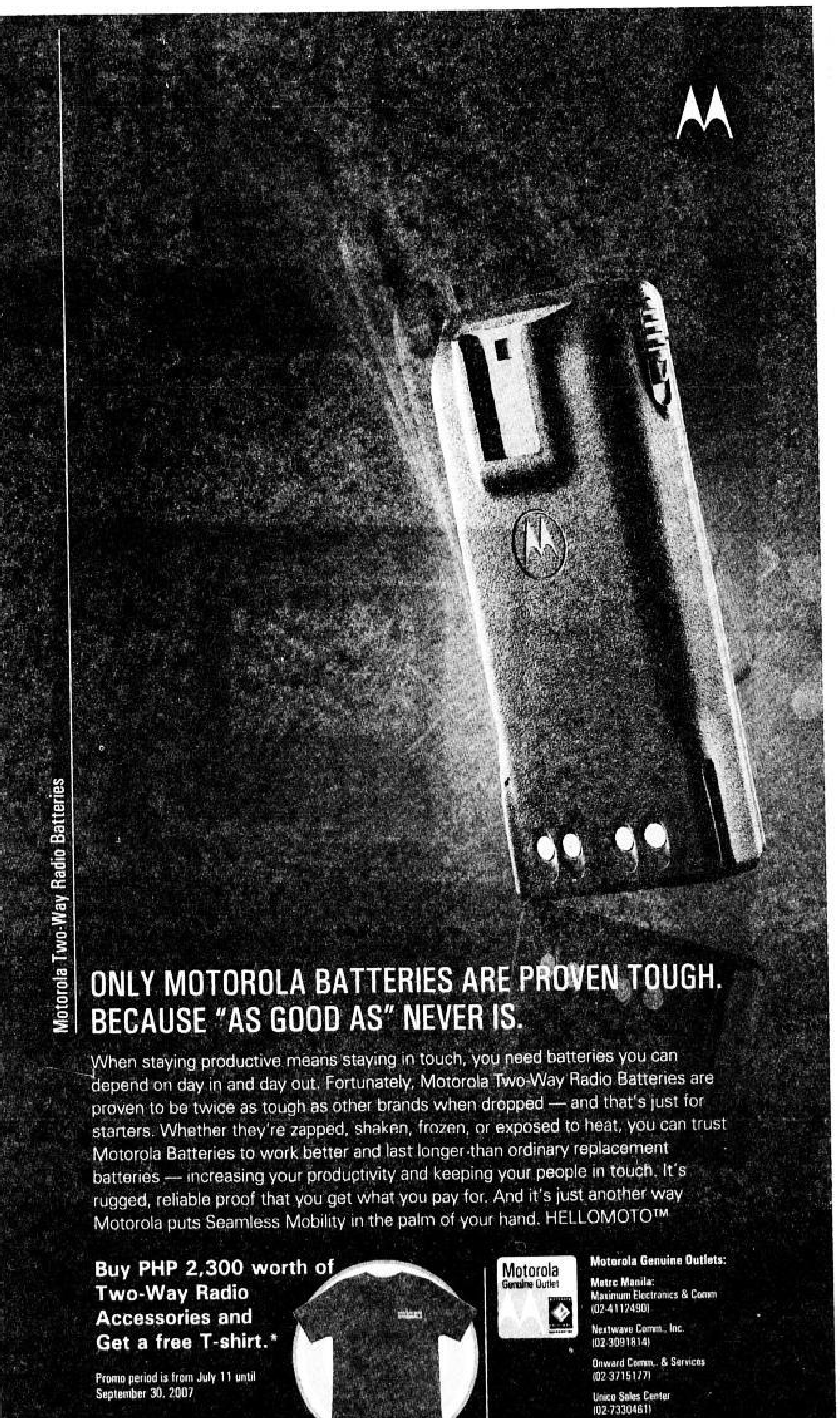
SYDNEY—A pet camel given as a birthday present killed a 60-year-old woman in Australia's remote outback in a bizarre attack, police said Sunday. The young male camel had been hand-reared by the woman and still drank out of a bottle, but had a history of unusual behavior and had previously attempted to smother the family's pet goat by sitting on it. Police said the 10-month-old animal on Saturday knocked the woman to the ground, stomped on her head and then lay on her at her sheep and cattle property near Mitchell in Queensland state, about 600 km west of the state capital Brisbane. The woman's husband found her body in the evening on returning from feeding stock and was devastated, police said. *AFP*

Thais vote on junta's charter

BANGKOK — Thais went to the polls Sunday to vote on a new constitution proposed by the ruling junta, in a first electoral test for the generals who led last September's bloodless coup.

Some 45 million eligible voters are being asked to approve or reject the charter, which the military says will pave the way for elections that would restore democracy by December.

For Thais, who have lived through more than a year of turmoil surrounding the ouster of billionaire premier Thaksin Shinawatra, the referendum was their first chance to vote since the military takeover. *AFP*



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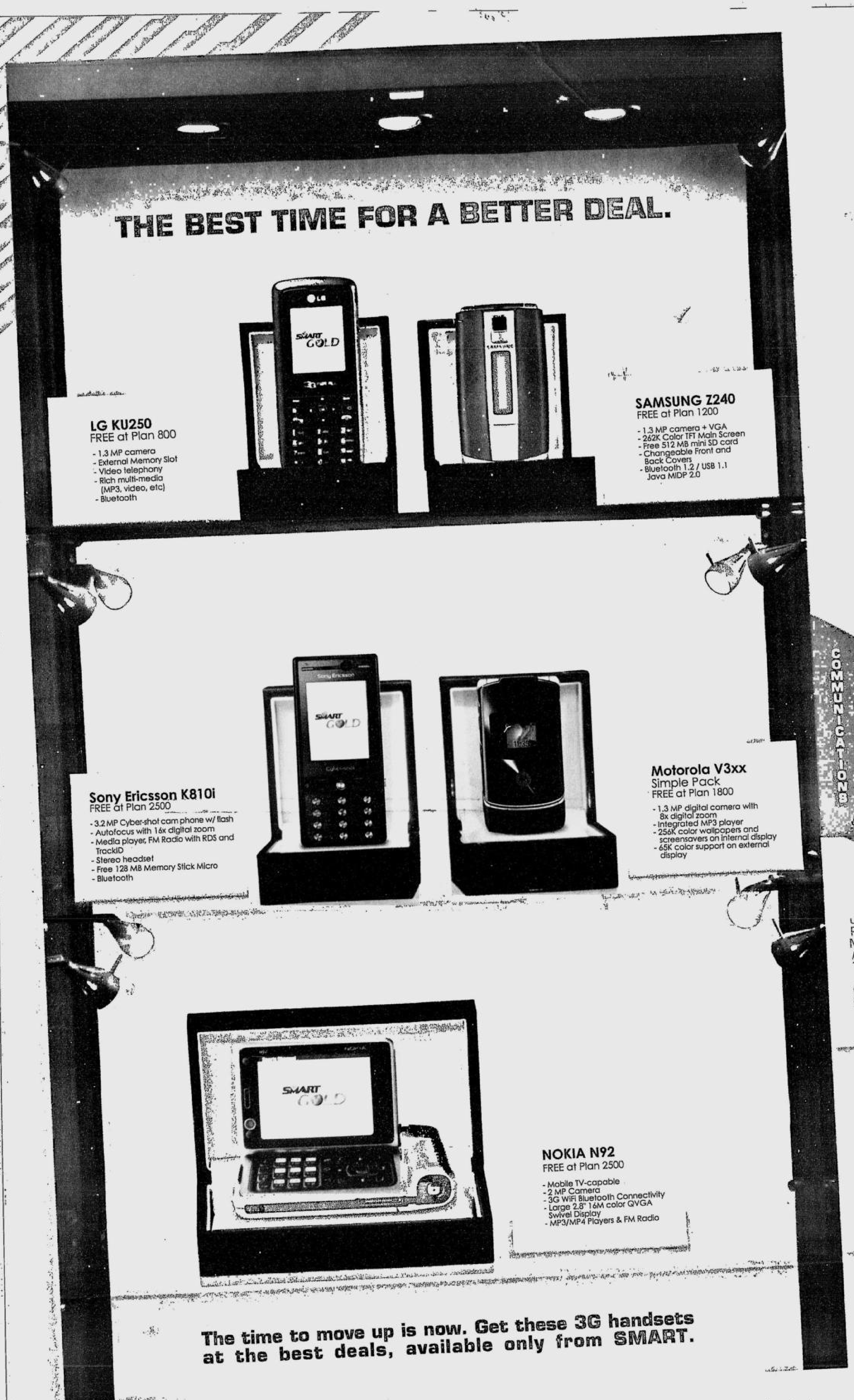
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Warriors rip Tigers

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / ABET CATANGUI

OVERACHIEVERS: The Philippines' Illam squad, made up of players from Metro Manila schools, pose for posterity after their runner-up finish.

Hawaii stops RP boys in World Series final

Illam batters settle for best As-Pac finish

UNITED STATES CHAMPION PEARL CITY OF HAWAII FOILED the International Little League Association of Manila's record-breaking attempt Saturday, scoring a 6-2 win in the finals of the Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

Pearl City scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to break a 2-2 tie, then pulled off a double play in the seventh and final inning to preserve the win, after Illam had put two runners on base with successive hits.

The Illam batters of manager Catherine Tanco-Ong, nevertheless, earned the distinction as the most successful Asia-Pacific squad since 1999, when the region joined the 10-team world tournament for the 13-14 age bracket.

The overachieving newcomers overwhelmed Canadian squad Surry County, 8-1, to capture the international crown Friday.

Before that win, the Illam batters, which snared the Asia-Pacific crown for the first time in Hagatna, Guam, in June, routed Puerto Rico, 6-0, Canada, 6-3, Latin America, 6-1, and Ukraine, 11-1.

Yusuke Kuroda pitched a one-hitter and his teammates pounded Canadian pitchers with 10 hits.

The Philippines scored two runs in the first inning, two in the third, one in the fourth and three in the sixth.

Pearl City bagged the US title by beating Texas, 4-1, on Friday.

Ong, a former television anchor woman, is the second woman in this series to manage a team that made it to the World Series final.

The squad is made up of Mark Ong of De La Salle Zobel, Southridge's Andy Tan and Adrian Bernardo, Kuroda of Southville IS, Brent's Seba Martinez-Miranda, Marist's Kevin Ramos and Mik Herrera, Jared Flores of Reedley IS, and Ateneo's Charles Catangui, Miko Habana, SJ San Juan, Leandro Banzon and Nico Disini.

Ong thanked the enthusiastic Filipino community in Michigan for their support. *With reports from Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas; and Roly Disini*

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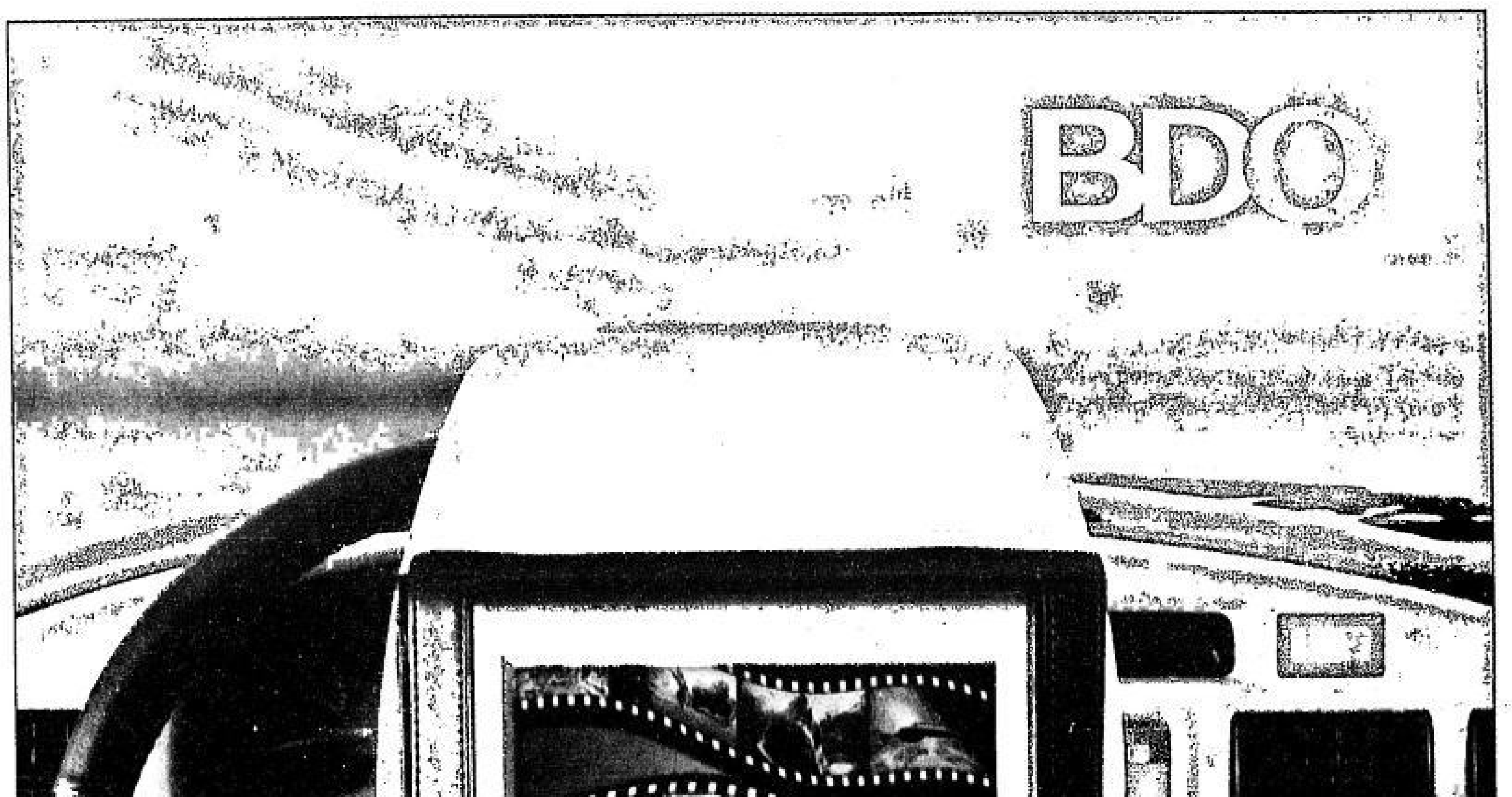

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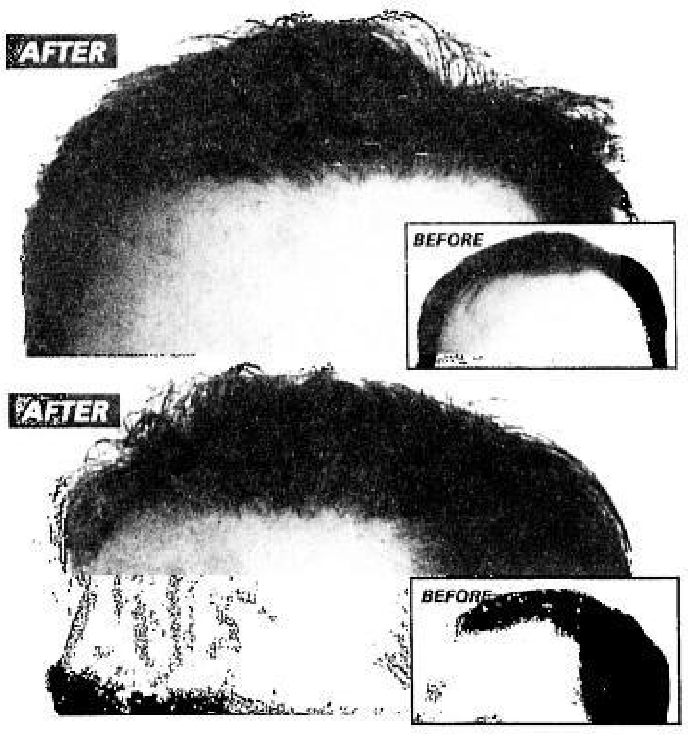

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Pacquiao steps up training today

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—MANNY PACQUIAO starts sharpening his punches today against sparmate David Rodela, who arrived in Cebu yesterday after more than 12 hours' flight from Los Angeles.

"David Rodela has already arrived," said Pacquiao's business associate Rex "Wakee" Salud, who owns the gym the Filipino fighter is using to prepare for his Oct. 6 rematch with Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

Another sparmate, Jose Armando Sta. Cruz, is due today in Cebu as Pacquiao steps up his buildup under American trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach said his popular ward should log around 130 to 150 rounds of sparring before they leave for Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

Pacquiao kept himself busy yesterday with a friendly pick-up basketball game against sportswriters at an upscale sports facility here.

"This is to prove that Pacquiao is not hostile to sportswriters, he just wishes that they could be more careful with what they are writing," a source in the Pacquiao camp told the INQUIRER. "He can be nice and play a game with them, but he can also sue them if they cross the line."

Pacquiao had already sued a sportswriter of a major daily and expressed resentment over reports of his run-in with PAL personnel on a recent flight to the US and his romantic involvement with movie star Ara Mina, which the actress had denied.

Record Wild Orchid romp at SLLP

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—WILD ORCHID RAN down a classy field yesterday to bag the first leg of the Philracom's Imported/Local Challenge series with a record run at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The five-year-old bay mare owned by Hermie Esguerra won by three lengths over La Tienne, clocking a dizzying 1 minute and 37.8 seconds for the mile under ace Jonathan Hernandez that broke the 1:38.6 mark set by Ever Mine in topping the PSA Cup last Sunday at Sta. Ana Park.

It was the 21st win in 35 career starts for the daughter of High Yield out of Dove Orchid and it put her back on track as the finest import in the land while winning P480,000 for its owner.

The win was also the eighth stakes victory for Hernandez for the year. The Jockey of the Year put one over Patty Dilema, who tried hard to guide La Tienne to victory but failed.

Irene's Fantasy, the third pick ridden by Antonio Alcasid, finished third with Regal Boom (John Paul Guce) and Native Land (Manolito Daquis) coming in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Warriors rip Tigers; Archers triumph

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST HONORED A departed coach. But the Warriors remembered, too, how it's like to blow out opponents.

Playing a solid second half, the undefeated Warriors crushed the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 99-82, for their ninth straight triumph in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"This game is for Gido Babilonia, it's his birthday today," said coach Dindo Pumaren of his late assistant coach, who died last January due to complications brought about by pneumonia.

"Last week, the boys practiced so hard, knowing that this would be for coach Gido. And I saw the energy and fire of the players."

Aside from matching the 9-0 start of the 1986 UE squad bannered by Jerry Codiñera, the Warriors moved within five games of an outright championship berth.

A team completing a 14-0 elimination-round sweep earns a Finals stint, leaving the three other semifinalists to slug it out for the last title slot.

La Salle made it a sweep for the Pumaren brothers as Franz's Green Archers survived a late-game scare to down the Far Eastern Tamaraws, 74-66, and claim solo second at 6-3.

The Tamaraws self-destructed in the closing minutes after trimming the deficit from 15 points, 68-53, to 72-66.

"Only two things could happen—either we fold up or rise to the occasion after that devastating loss to UST," said Pumaren.

The Warriors, which matched the season-high score La Salle set in its 99-75 first-round win over Adamson, banked on sharp offense with Narciso Llagas leading with 21 points.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	9	0
La Salle	6	3
FEU	5	4
UST	5	4
Ateneo	4	4
NU	4	4
Adamson	1	7
UP	0	8

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)

The scores:
First Game

UE 99—Llagas 21, Borboran 14, Gregorio 13, Lee 12, Fampulme 8, Martinez 8, Lingganay 7, Arellano 6, Espiritu 5, Bandaying 2, Cañizares 2, Thiele 1.

UST 82—Mirza 18, Cruz 17, Espiritu 13, Canlas 8, Allera 8, Cortez 7, Cuan 5, Ababou 5, Gile 1, Dizon 0.

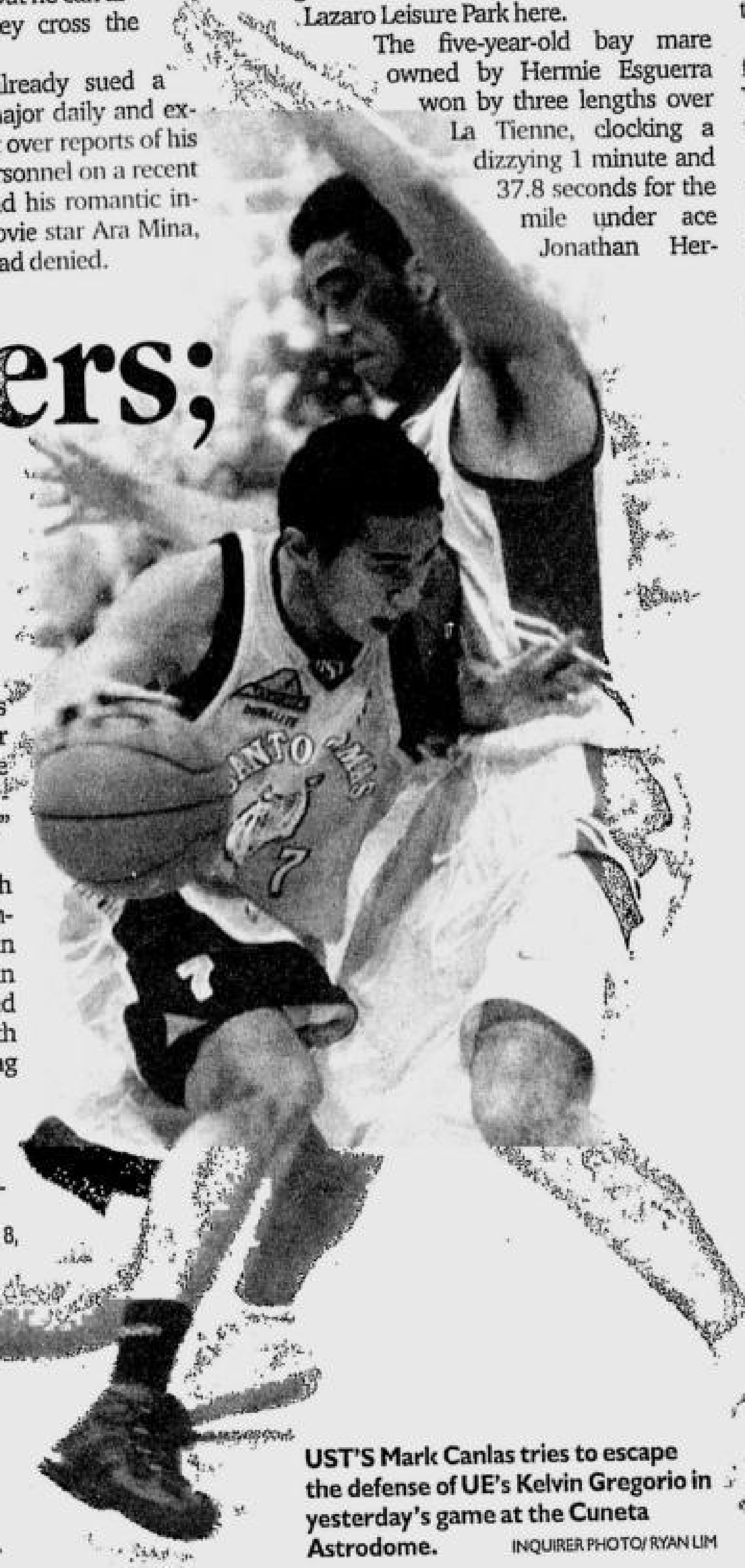
Quarters: 28-22, 48-45, 72-60, 99-82

Second Game

LA SALLE 74—Casio 16, Maierhofer 13, Tang 12, Villanueva 8, Mangahas 7, Walsham 5, Co 5, Malabes 3, Ferdinand 2, Ilad 2, Atkins 1, Batricevic 0, Cua 0.

FEU 66—Baracael 20, Cawaling 10, Adolfo 10, Cervantes 9, Sanga 5, Fernandez 4, Alisbo 3, Ramos 2, Barroca 2, Tanuan 1, Abaring 0, Knuttel 0, Cabagnot 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 24-18, 40-35, 58-50, 74-66



UST'S Mark Canlas tries to escape the defense of UE's Kelvin Gregorio in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome. INQUIRER PHOTO/RYAN LIM

SPORTSWATCH

De La Salle-Lipa spikers prevail

DE LA SALLE-LIPA SURGED BACK FROM FIVE points down in the deciding set to topple Hope Christian, 25-18, 14-25, 25-21, yesterday in the Petron Treats Boys V-League at the San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Quezon City. The win improved DLSL's record to 1-1. John Kevin dela Vega delivered 19 kills for DLSL, including six in a 17-8 closing run. St. Anthony blanked St. Joseph, 25-16, 25-23. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

PBA top brass in PSA Forum

THE NEW LEADERS OF THE PHILIPPINE BAS-ketball Association will discuss what's in store for the coming 2007-08 season in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch. League officer-in-charge Reynaud "Sonny" Barrios and PBA chair Tony Chua will grace the Pagcor-sponsored sports program, aired live over dzSR 918 which starts at 10:30 a.m.

Morong cockpit opens with 80 tiffs

THE MORONG COCKPIT ARENA IN MORONG, Rizal, reopens today with the staging of the "Unang Arangkada Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan." Competition starts at 8 a.m. with 80 fights on tap, said host Ronnie Lacsina, also the cockpit manager. Brand-new mountain bikes await the first 10 winners while P1,000 each go to the last five winners. Two "lucky prizes" are at stake: P20,000 for the fifth placer and P20,000 for the 33th placer.

Makati 3-cocker kicks off today

MAKATI COLISEUM'S "HULING HIRIT" 3-COCK derby begins at 5 p.m. with B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador as sponsors. Hosted by Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co, the event is also the last cock derby of the 2007 season. Members of cocker groups like PCCA and PCAP are backing the derby. The P700,000 Richard L. Bates 7-Stag Derby follows next on Aug. 27 and 29.

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Pacquiao vs media and the ugly truth

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—Strange things happened inside Team Pacquiao that made Oscar De La Hoya, who lectured the Filipino boxing super hero on manners and right conduct, appear like fiction, or totally untrue.

Pacquiao, according to a report by Ronnie Nathanielsz for philboxing.com, had also threatened to sue for libel over that story, wherein De La Hoya bluntly told Pacquiao to reform.

Allow me to quote the first part of that dispatch, filed from Sacramento, site of the Boxing World Cup, where the Philippines dethroned mighty Mexico, 5-1:

"Oscar De La Hoya honored Manny Pacquiao yesterday by appointing him captain of the RP team in the Boxing World Cup before throwing a sharp verbal combination aimed at making the Filipino boxing hero mend his rotten ways.

"Swearing he had been disappointed by Pacquiao's recent behavior, De La Hoya told reporters at the conclusion of a press conference inside the Arco Arena here Pacquiao must learn to conduct himself like a true gentleman and champion.("He has a responsibility to be responsible.")

De La Hoya at first hesitated to honestly bare his disappointment over Pacquiao's repeated refusal to take the plane for California to start training and help drumbeat his Oct. 6 rematch with Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera.

"Sensing a chance to be of help in reforming Pacquiao, he said: 'It's never too late to knock some sense into his head.'"

* * *

Whew! That verbal blast, thrown point-blank by the Golden Boy, could sure deck even the world's most popular, highest-paid fighter in his division.

Sorry, but the one-time poor boy from GenSan must've grown too jaded to see De La Hoya's honest intention.

As a result, Pacquiao, according to Nathanielsz, ordered his lawyers to check the possibility of suing for libel.

"Media should not tell lies or make up stories," Pacquiao lectured. "They can criticize, OK, but they must tell the truth. All I want is to make them follow the law."

* * *

The truth—and nothing but—was that the boxing legend who demonstrated how much he cared for Pacquiao was neither a double of the true Golden Boy.

In fact, De La Hoya's statements were recorded by two other media men, Salven Lagumbay and Homer Sayson.

As for this reporter, it was still early in the day, and there was not (yet) a drop of exquisite Torres Dies in his veins to make him hallucinate and imagine things.

Actually, there was one startling De La Hoya statement that we failed to print in that contested report: "Pacquiao is a model to many people and boxers all over the world. He has a responsibility to all these professionals who look up to him."

* * *

To repeat, not very normal things must've been happening inside Team Pacquiao that made the Oscar De La Hoya, who told Pacquiao how to conduct himself, totally unreal.

In fact, we have just received this tip from Manila on how Pacquiao, now up in arms against the media, has ordered his lawyers to scan the papers for possible libelous reports against him.

"He has become onion-skinned, he's mad at reporters, including you," said our reliable informer.

Sad to say, that strange behavior by the most popular living Filipino is no longer surprising.

Freddie Roach, asked if the hassles behind Pacquiao's sudden departure from here were actually part of an original ploy, shot back with an all-revealing blurb: "Normal? You don't expect anything normal with Manny."

End of quote. Roach next left Wild Card for Manila to face the ugly truth.

* * *

(**POOL POINTS:** Here's BCSP chair Yen Makabenta on the Alex Pagulayan ouster: "1. His money demands have totally disappeared; he is now the lowly pool player. 2. He admits that no meeting took place with BCSP official, but he claims that he discussed TV program with Yen Makabenta over the phone. Not true. Phone-call was about arranging a meeting, which could not be set because he was busy. 3. Singapore billiards president brought up Pagu's behavior with Ernie Fajardo and wondered why the referee did not warn him. 4. Amir did not complain because he won. 5. The rule is simple. What is not acceptable in money matches should not be allowed also in tournaments. 6. If Pagu had adopted this civil tone the row could have been avoided.")

Big Zambo splash on last day

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A DELUGE OF MEDALS from swimming at the close of competitions yesterday catapulted Zamboanga City to the overall championship of the Philippine Olympic Festival Mindanao qualifying leg here.

Spearheaded by brothers Leonard and Jonard Ventura, the Zamboanga tankers captured 37 gold medals, nine coming on the final day, to complement the team's formidable showing in athletics, wrestling, judo, karate and taekwondo.

Leonard Ventura, 16, wound up with 13 golds following victories in the 16-and-under boys' 100-m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 400m individual medley, 200m IM, 200m butterfly, 50m free, 1500m free, 200m back, 100m breaststroke, 200m free, 200m breast, 100m fly and 400m free.

Also creating a huge splash was the 15-year-old Jonard Ventura, who ruled the 15-and-under boys' 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 400m IM, 200m butterfly, 1500m free, 200m back, 200m free and 200m breaststroke.

MEDAL TALLY

	G	S	B	Total
Zamboanga	94	50	36	180
Gen. Santos	89	36	35	160
Cag. de Oro	60	59	75	194
Koronadal	41	39	25	108
Misamis Or.	39	52	83	174
Misamis Occ.	23	17	19	59
Davao DN	15	10	7	32
Davao City	13	26	22	61
S. Kudarat	10	4	1	15
Bukidnon	9	9	15	33
S. Cotabato	4	1	4	9
Iligan City	3	3	7	13
N. Cotabato	3	2	3	8
Sarangani	1	31	4	36
Marawi	1	0	3	4
CARAGA	1	0	2	3
Agusan DN	1	0	0	1
Agusan DS	0	4	4	8
Davao DS	0	2	0	2
Davao Or.	0	2	0	2
Jolo, Sulu	0	0	1	1

But while the older Ventura wound up as the most bemedalled athlete, the spotlight shone brightest on Lawin Dacera of Gen. Santos City.

A younger brother of national swim team mainstay Nikita, the 13-year-old Dacera registered impressive clockings in five of his six gold-medal performances that caught the attention of Philippine Amateur Swimming Association officials.

"I fared poorly during the Palaro, so I practiced hard for this event," said Dacera, who came from a family of swimmers with parents, Leopoldo and Joan, serving as coaches.

Dacera won the 100m back, 400m IM, 1500 free, 200m IM, 200m free and 400m free, and is a cinch to make it to the national finals scheduled in November at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

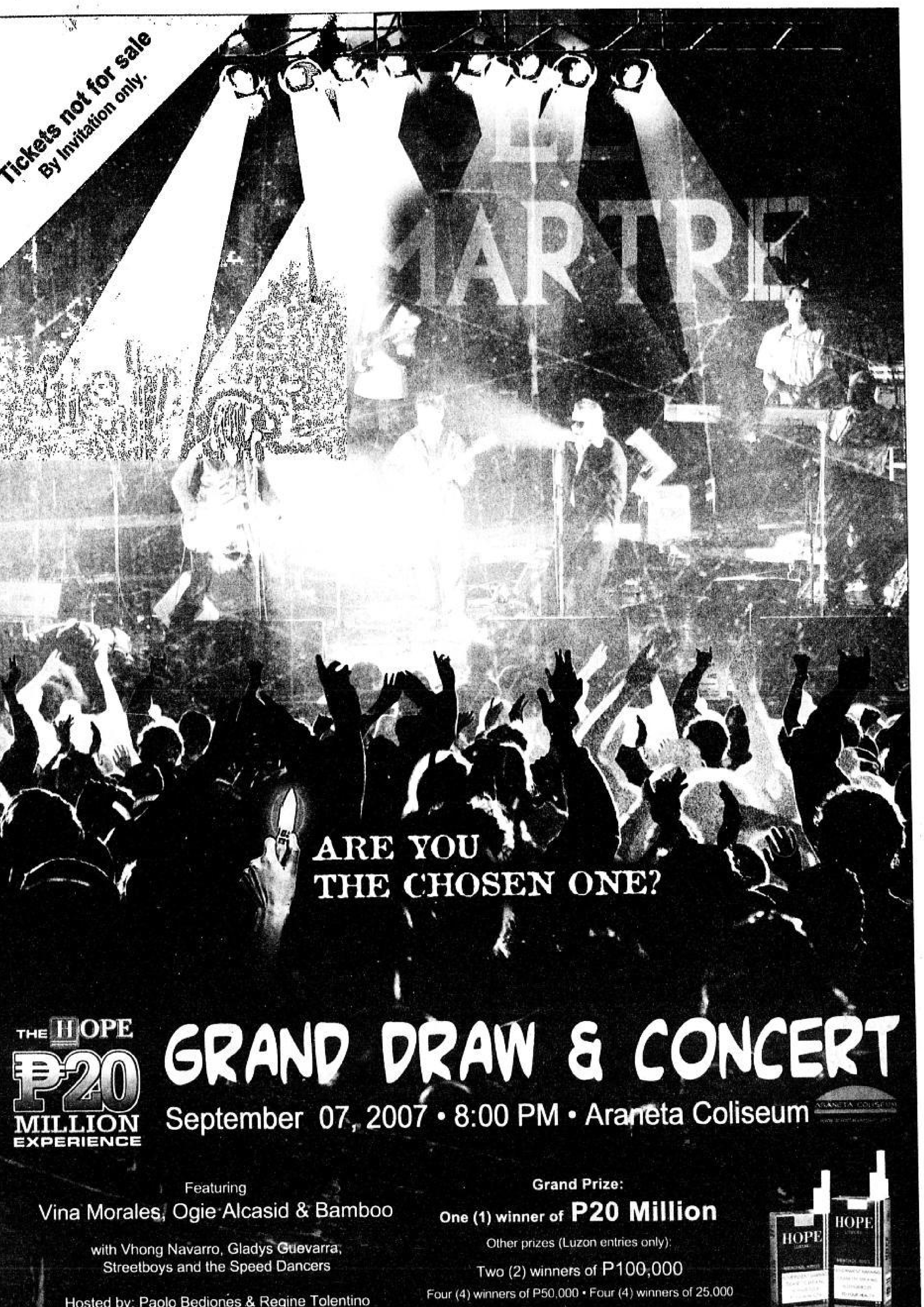
"I know I could do better in the national finals," said Dacera, who had a triple A rating in the 200m, 400m and 1500 free, 200m and 400m IM and a double A in the 100m back to become the games' fastest tanker.

Swim president Mark Joseph said under Pasa's standard, a triple A rating is considered the highest followed by a double A ranking.

Though GenSan also made waves in the pool with 43 golds, apart from pulling off a sweep in gymnastics, its sub-par performances in athletics and combat sports proved crucial.

GenSan's shortcomings in taekwondo, karate, judo and wrestling allowed Zamboanga to take the overall crown with a total tally of 94 gold, 50 silver and 36 bronze medals. GenSan ended up with a collection of 89 golds, 36 silvers and 35 bronzes.

In football, Davao City ruled the 15- and 17-and-under divisions by walloping Bukidnon in the finals, 2-0 and 3-1, respectively, at the 4th Army Infantry Camp.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Bonds records No. 760

MIAMI—BARRY BONDS HIT HIS RECORD 760TH HOME RUN AND lifted the San Francisco Giants over the Florida Marlins, 4-3, in the National League on Saturday. Bonds also struck out a season-high three times. The crowd of 42,817—the largest for Florida at home since opening day 20,056—stood to cheer and take photos. *AP*

Becks sets up three goals but Galaxy lose again

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—DAVID BECKHAM BROUGHT back memories of Pelé and Franz Beckenbauer, reviving soccer in the New York area for a night. He set up a pair of goals in the first eight minutes of his first Major League Soccer start but the New York Red Bulls beat the Los Angeles Galaxy, 5-4. *AP*

Federer eyes 50th crown vs Blake

MASON, OHIO—ROGER FEDERER moved within a victory of his 50th career title by beating Lleyton Hewitt, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (1), in the semifinals of the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters on Saturday.

Federer, who won this event in 2005, will face James Blake on Sunday. Blake beat Nikolay Davydenko, 6-4, 6-2, in the late semifinal.

Federer is 6-0 against Blake. A win would make him the fifth-youngest player to win 50 titles, at 26 years, 11 days. Bjorn Borg won his 50th at 23 years, 7 months.

"I missed 50 last week by three or four points," Federer said of his loss in the Rogers Cup finals in Montreal to Novak Djokovic. "Maybe I'll get a little bit closer this week."

Blake, who has never lost to Davydenko in six matches, capped the seventh game of the second set with a 132-mph (212 kph) ace, and broke Davydenko in the next game with a cross-court smash for match point.

In Toronto, top-ranked Justine Henin will play for her sixth title of the season after dispatching Chinese qualifier Yan Zi, 6-3, 6-0, in the Rogers Cup. She will will face second-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, a 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 winner over Tatiana Golovin of France. *AP*

Greg Norman betrayed me—Chris Evert's ex

NORMAN (left) and Evert THEAGE.COM.AU

SYDNEY—TENNIS LEGEND CHRIS Evert's former husband says Australian golfing great Greg Norman stole his wife.

Andy Mill, a US Olympic skiing champion, said he was broken hearted by the betrayal, saying he regarded the golfing legend as his best friend.

"Greg Norman at one time was my best friend, and a year and a half ago I would have taken a bullet for this guy," Mill was quoted saying in Australia's Sunday Telegraph. "I didn't realize he was the one who was going to pull the trigger."

Evert filed for divorce from Mill last November, citing "irreconcilable differences". She and Mill had long been close friends with Norman, 52, and his soon-to-be ex-wife Laura. *AFP*

Chinese world's best shuttlers

KUALA LUMPUR—CHINA's number one Lin Dan downed Indonesian and world no. 11 Sony Dwi Kuncoro, 21-11, 22-20, to keep the men's world championship title here Sunday. The man known as 'Super Dan' became only the second men's singles player in history to win two world titles. Compatriot Zhu Lin walked over Hong Kong's Wang Chen, 21-8, 21-12, to bag the women's crown. *AFP*

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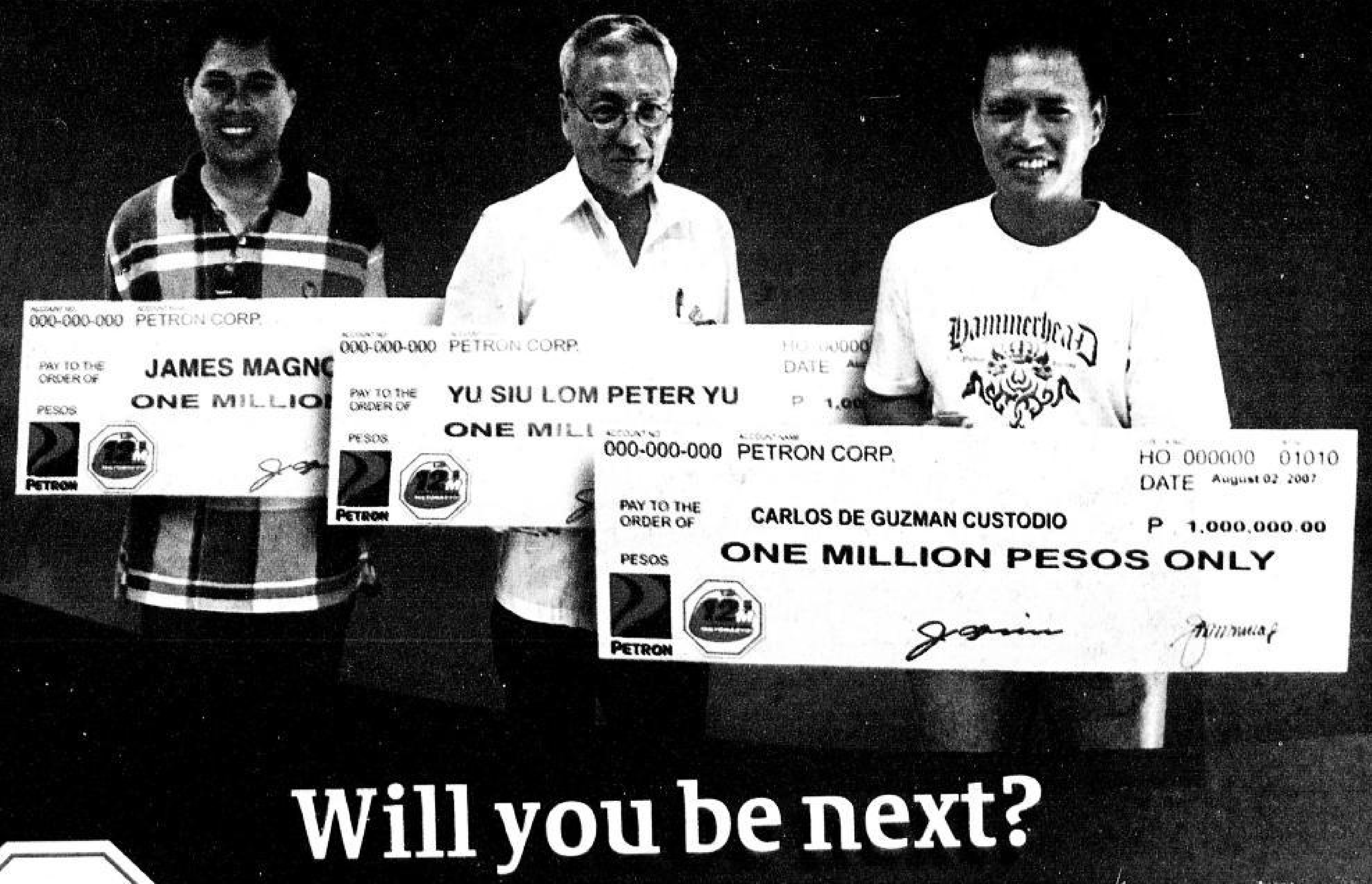

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RP investors lost ₱6.47B in PIPC scam

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Liquidator says funds salted away to HK

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE TOTAL LOSSES OF FILipino investors in the foreign exchange trading scam of Performance Investments Products Corp. (PIPC) were significantly lower than initially estimated.

The bad news is that only a small fraction of this amount was deposited in the company's main bank account, with the rest likely having been salted away in Hong Kong, according to a court-appointed provisional liquidator.

In its first report to investors, financial forensic firm Ferrier Hodgson said that funds lodged by local investors with PIPC were deposited in Hong Kong bank accounts of the company's offshore unit.

"Information provided to us to date indicates that, at least from the Filipino investors, there was in excess of $138 million deposited in the various investment schemes operated by the PIPC Group," the report said. "It appears from the information provided to us by bankers allegedly holding these funds that only approximately $2 million remains in these accounts."

The figure is significantly lower than the $250 million initially thought to have been lost in the scam after the company's owner, Singaporean Michael Liew, disappeared last month.

Nonetheless, the amount—about P6.47 billion at the prevailing exchange rate—ranks as one of the biggest losses to a scam in the country, mainly due to the relative affluence of the company's clients.

Having so far failed to locate Liew, many local investors now want to sue PIPC's depository banks, like Dutch banking giant ABN Amro, for possible breach of their fiduciary responsibilities.

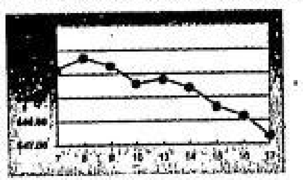
According to Ferrier Hodgson executive director Rod Sutton, however, the bulk of the funds were never lodged with the bank, contrary to claims made by PIPC to its clients.

"I am informed by management that they would anticipate in excess of $138 million being held in these

RP INVESTORS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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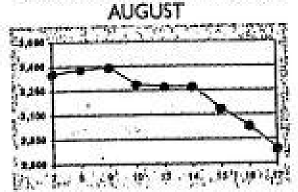
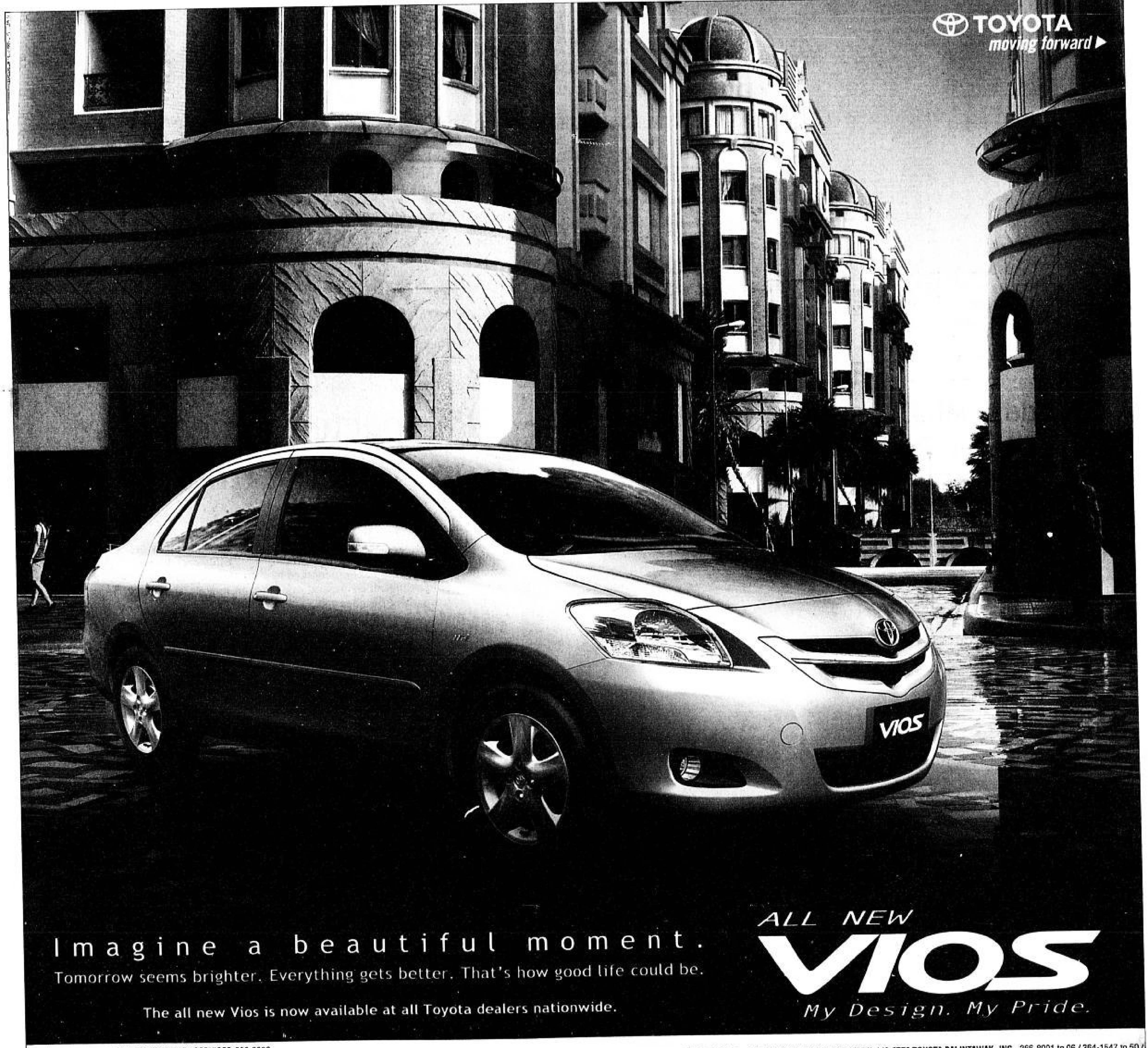
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
AUGUST



(See stock market report and story on Page B4)



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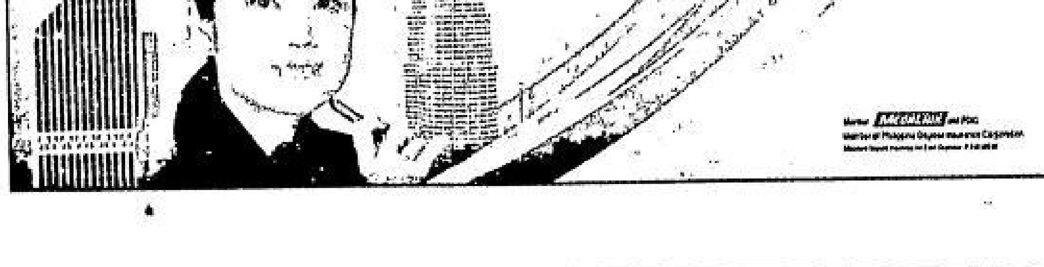

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Negotiated sale of North Harbor contract looms

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORI-ty (PPA) may award the North Harbor contract through a negotiated sale if the follow-up attempt for a competitive bidding fails, a move seen to boost the chances of Harbour Centre Port Terminals Inc.'s (HCPTI) joint venture with Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC).

HCPTI and MPIC were automatically elevated to the list of eligible bidders in the second round after satisfactorily completing the eligibility requirements of the failed bidding last month.

PPA general manager Oscar M. Sevilla told reporters that PPA was preparing the guidelines for a negotiated sale as a contingency plan in case no other firms qualify to compete when the bidding process resumes. The guidelines will be presented for board approval this week.

Sevilla explained that PPA's Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) expected very little interest from other parties to join the second round of bidding and compete with HCPTI for the contract.

"SBAC wanted a negotiated (sale) if the second round fails again and I think it is feasible. We just have to determine how to extract the lowest rate possible from the lone bidder," he said.

"Nonetheless, we will still push through with the planned competitive bidding. All HCPTI will just have to do is to wait and see what will happen. Either way, the firm will have inside track at North Harbor."

The resumption was originally scheduled Wednesday last week.

But as of Friday, the SBAC has held off plans to restart the privatization process to this week pending the PPA board's approval of several revisions in the process.

Sevilla said the SBAC had sought the approval of the PPA board for each step taken to restart the bidding to guarantee that the interest of the public would be upheld once the 25-year contract for North Harbor is awarded through competitive bidding or negotiated sale.

Among the issues that needed approval from the board include tariff, paid-up capitalization and cargo-handling experience. The PPA board is scheduled to meet this week to address these issues and think of contingencies such as the creation of a committee to handle the negotiation with HCPTI in case the second round of bidding fails.

The PPA is set to publish the latest invitation to bid this week. Those who joined the first bidding—Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI), Magsaysay Maritime Corp. (MMC), Pier 8 Arrastre and Stevedoring Services and Prudential Customs Brokerage—are expected to participate again.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF
PLATINUM GROUP METALS CORPORATION
(Name of Company/Individual)

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 96-40, as amended, "The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act No. 7942 otherwise known as The "Philippine Mining Act of 1995" that PLATINUM GROUP METALS CORPORATION, a Filipino Corporation duly organized under Philippine Laws, with address at 7th Floor (Penthouse) Corporate Business Center Building, 151 Paseo de Roxas corner Arnaiz Street., Makati City has filed an application for Exploration Permit (EP) for the exploration of Nickel, Chromite and other associated mineral particularly described as follows

I. EP Application No - EPA-IVB-059 (EXPA-000161)
II. Date of Filing - November 8, 2004
III. Area of Location - Sitio Lapu-lapu, Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Narra, Province of Palawan

IV. Description of the Applied Area
A. Geographical Coordinates

PARCEL 1

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	9° 19' 00"	118° 19' 30"
2	9° 20' 00"	118° 19' 30"
3	9° 20' 00"	118° 19' 00"
4	9° 21' 00"	118° 19' 00"
5	9° 21' 30"	118° 20' 30"
6	9° 21' 00"	118° 20' 30"
7	9° 21' 00"	118° 21' 00"
8	9° 20' 00"	118° 21' 00"
9	9° 20' 00"	118° 21' 00"
10	9° 20' 30"	118° 23' 00"
11	9° 20' 30"	118° 23' 30"
12	9° 21' 30"	118° 23' 30"
13	9° 21' 30"	118° 24' 00"
14	9° 20' 00"	118° 24' 00"
15	9° 20' 00"	118° 20' 30"
16	9° 18' 00"	118° 22' 30"
17	9° 18' 00"	118° 22' 30"
18	9° 18' 15"	118° 22' 30"
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21	9° 18' 15"	118° 20' 30"
22	9° 18' 15"	118° 20' 30"
23	9° 18' 15"	118° 21' 30"
24	9° 18' 00"	118° 21' 30"

AREA – 3,420.000 Has.

B. Sketch Plan
C. Size
The applied area covers three thousand four hundred twenty (3,420.0000) hectares.
D. Restrictions
The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas closed to Mining Location"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Land") and Section 105 of DAO NO. 96-40 as amended, which provide, among others, that
a. The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/ applications, old growth/virgin forest, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
b. The Following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, railroads, reservoirs, Dams and other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops.
c. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous People (IPs) and/or Covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/ Land Claims/ Titles (CADC/CALC/CADT/CALT), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs, and
d. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires That may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purpose of undertaking exploration therein

V. Term/ Duration of the Exploration Permit
The term of the Exploration Permit shall be a period of two (2) years, from the date of issuance thereof, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of six (6) years. Provided That no renewal of Permit shall allowed unless the Permittee has complied with all the terms and conditions thereof, and has not been found guilty of violation of any provision of the Act and DAO No. 96-40, as amended. Provided further, That the conduct of feasibility study and filing of the declaration of mining project feasibility shall be undertaken during the term of the Exploration Permit, subject to the provisions of Section 33 of DAO No. 96-40, as amended

VI Nature Exploration Activities to be undertaken-
A. Research Work-
1. gathering, compilation and collation of available data
B. Geological Survey/Mapping of previous workings
C. Detailed Survey/Mapping/Studies
D. Drilling
E. Topographic Survey
F. Preparation of Feasibility Study

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application(s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within thirty (30) calendar days from the last date of publication/posting/radio announcement hereof directly with the Regional Office concerned or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR for Filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators And/or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7942 and its implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 96-40, series of 1996 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/ contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars apply or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. IV-B (MIMAROPA) located at 7th Floor, DENR By the Bay, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

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Heads you win, tails I lose

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

THE RECENT MOVEMENTS IN THE STOCK and currency markets have been variously described as a "carnage," "bloodbath," "rout," "correction," "adjustment" and more. While the descriptive term used varies with the analyst's pessimistic or optimistic tendencies, it is clear that there is a lot of bad news lately in the financial markets, a complete reversal of the bullish, even euphoric sentiment that had marked the first half of the year. The Philippine stock market in recent weeks has lost all the impressive gains it had accumulated since the start of this year, and prices dropped a hefty 6 percent in just one day last Friday. Meanwhile, the peso-dollar rate has crept upward again, climbing above 46 in recent days, and still rising.

Questions

These recent negative market trends naturally provoke two types of questions in people's minds, depending on one's place in our society and economy. For the small minority who had been riding on and gaining from the bullish market trends, the inevitable questions are: Will the markets resume their uptrend soon? Or is this the end of the bull run, possibly the beginning of a meltdown?

There is a much greater majority among us who are not direct participants in the stock and currency markets, and the common man on the street probably couldn't care less about what's going on. These are the people who have benefited little if at all from the supposed good news on the economy in the past year or so, as manifested mostly in financial indicators. For them, the question that needs to be asked is: How would the recent market turmoil affect the well-being of the average Filipino, i.e., those who only see prices, jobs and incomes as the yardsticks of the state of our economy?

Heads, you win

The problem with the situation is that whichever way the markets go, the odds seem stacked against the common folk. Bullish stock markets and an appreciating peso are indeed good news and beneficial for some, particularly those who can cash in on market capital gains. But a booming stock market holds little direct impact on the lives of the common rural or city-dweller. While a sustained stock market rise could eventually lead to positive impacts on jobs and incomes, the impact is indirect, takes time, and may not even happen at all—especially when market reversals such as happening now occur before these indirect effects could even begin to take hold.

Meanwhile, a rising currency is both good news and bad news—and for reasons already explained before in this column, is probably bad news for the greater majority of Filipinos. This is because an appreciating peso tends to kill jobs, and reduces incomes of OFW families, among other things. One is thus led to conclude that with booming equity and currency markets, the prominent winners are the rich. Heads, you win.

Tails, I lose

Who gets hurt the most when the markets tumble? We only need to recall what happened 10 years ago to see the answer. The Asian financial crisis of 1997-98 was a crisis that originated from the financial sector, but quickly spilled over to the rest of the economy in all the affected countries in the region. What sparked it were failed investments in real property (in Thailand) and other enterprises (Korea) that led to bank loan defaults, leading in turn to bank failures that spurred the massive fund withdrawals from the entire East Asian region.

When the dust had settled, who were the worst-hit? It was neither the financial sector players nor the losing investors, who tend to have deep pockets anyway. It was, rather, the common folk who lost their jobs because businesses suddenly found bank loans extremely costly or difficult to obtain, in the face of skyrocketing interest rates and overcautious bankers afraid of further getting burned. And it was the common folk who suffered reduced social services from severely cash-strapped governments facing dramatic drops in revenues. For defenseless common folk, when it comes to financial sector movements, it's a case of heads you win, tails I lose.

Foreseen surprise?

Will the current downtrend in the markets persist?

The current market debacle, sparked by unpaid housing loans by more risky borrowers with US banks (the so-called sub-prime housing market), has now spread well beyond the US housing sector. This is because the billions of dollars of investments by US banks in these sub-prime loans have found their way into complex financial investment instruments held by other banks and fund managers around the world. And no one seems to know exactly how bad and how widespread the losses are for now.

What is getting quite apparent is that the problem is not something that the markets will shake off easily, or soon. Meanwhile, we need to brace ourselves for the inevitable repercussions on the productive sectors of economy, and on the common citizens. The World Economic Forum had in fact long been citing such an "asset blow-up" as a key risk threatening the world economy, and even anticipated it to get worse in 2007; thus it wasn't exactly unforeseen. The only surprise seems to be that market players hadn't prepared for it enough.

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RP expected to benefit from 'reverse migration'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CHIEF ECONOMIST OF DEUTSCHE Bank has cited the Philippines' potential to benefit from the same phenomenon of reverse migration that bailed Ireland out of the poverty trap three decades ago.

In a briefing last week, visiting Deutsche Bank chief economist Norbert Walter said he was upbeat on the Philippines and its ability to catch up with Asia's fast-growing economies.

"In our analysis, the rating has improved for this very country. I've never seen such good economic and political weather in the Philippines," he said.

Walter said the Philippines could go the way of Ireland, which was perennially an impoverished country that was looked down upon in Europe until the country joined the European Union in the 1970s and lured back a lot of skilled and newly affluent Irish migrants.

He noted that a lot of these Irish migrants had found green pastures in Chicago but came back home and put up their own businesses that propelled the Irish economy to new heights.

"What happened? An agricultural country, impoverished forever, overtook everybody else in Europe in terms of support for infrastructure, per capita income and stability of the political system," Walter said.

With the equity capital infused by these returning migrants, Walter said, Ireland was able to emancipate itself from the agriculture to the services age in one big jump.

"So I'm very much welcoming gross movement of people and I don't mind very skilled people leaving the Philippines. If some of those who are skilled come back, the country will benefit from their learning and their network and their relationship," he said.

Walter said the Filipinos with strong ties to their country would surely come back and make a significant contribution to future development.

In place of the EU that helped Ireland's development, he said the Philippines had the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as a regional economic support.

"I'm pretty sure that under prevailing circumstances, the Philippines will dramatically benefit from the openness of its attitude toward migration and remittances," he said.

The economist said the benefits that the country were reaping from its overseas workers were a far better economic driver than any government policy.

To date, he said the country was no more in the same situation as in 1997, when it suffered from the regional financial shakeout that caused unprecedented currency devaluation and resulted in an economic slump.

He said the country's agriculture sector was likewise benefiting from the increasing global demand for crops used as inputs for bioethanol.

"Everybody that's well endowed in agricultural products is better off now that people have come up with ways to use their product not only for food for the Chinese but also for energy products," he said.

"Farmers are now no more a truly endangered species," he said.

For this year, the economist sees the Philippines sustaining a growth in domestic output of about 5-6 percent.

RP investors lost P6.47B . . .

From page B1

accounts," he said in his report. "A review of the bank statements indicate that the highest balance held in the ABN Amro accounts in the last 12 months is less than $5 million."

While this unfolded, rifts began to develop within the local group of PIPC investors, with some opposing the role being played by Ferrier Hodgson because of potential conflicts of interest in the case.

In an online forum named "PIPC Pyramid Scam," several investors questioned the appointment of the Hong Kong-based firm as provisional liquidator by a Hong Kong court because it was initially hired by PIPC general manager Cristina Gonzales-Tuason.

Sutton has already denied that his firm was working to protect the interests of Tuason and other PIPC officials.

Tuason is, herself, the subject of a criminal complaint filed by PIPC investors with the National Bureau of Investigation.

A group of investors have now hired a fresh set of lawyers to argue their case before the Hong Kong courts independently from the efforts of Ferrier Hodgson, which is represented locally by lawyer Sigfrid Fortun.

ATSC shifts further to cargo

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABOITIZ TRANSport System Corporation (ATSC) expects its passenger business to shrink further in favor of freight, and has lined up another ship for sale.

But the company will never abandon its passenger business, said one of its top officials.

"For ATSC, we are actually contracting passenger capacity in favor of freight. Cargo is growing so there is a shift in revenue mix," said Erramon Aboitiz, chief operating officer of the Aboitiz holding company Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.

Aboitiz said that a few years ago, the passenger-freight mix was 50-50.

Today, it has shifted to 60-30 in favor of freight.

"But we will never abandon passage. We will just increase freight so that our utilization rate will be higher," he said.

Aboitiz said the company does not have concrete plans to increase freight rates just yet.

"We will wait and see how the market grows, whether we will increase rates," he said.

"Right now, we are cutting costs, and we are looking for buyers of the SuperFerry 15, which will be sold at similar terms as the SuperFerry 16. When we sell the next vessel, we will have cash," he added.

In the second quarter, the company sold SuperFerry 16 and 17, gaining a total of P364 million from the two ships.

The company plans to continue converting unused passage capacity to make room for its roll-on roll-off service.

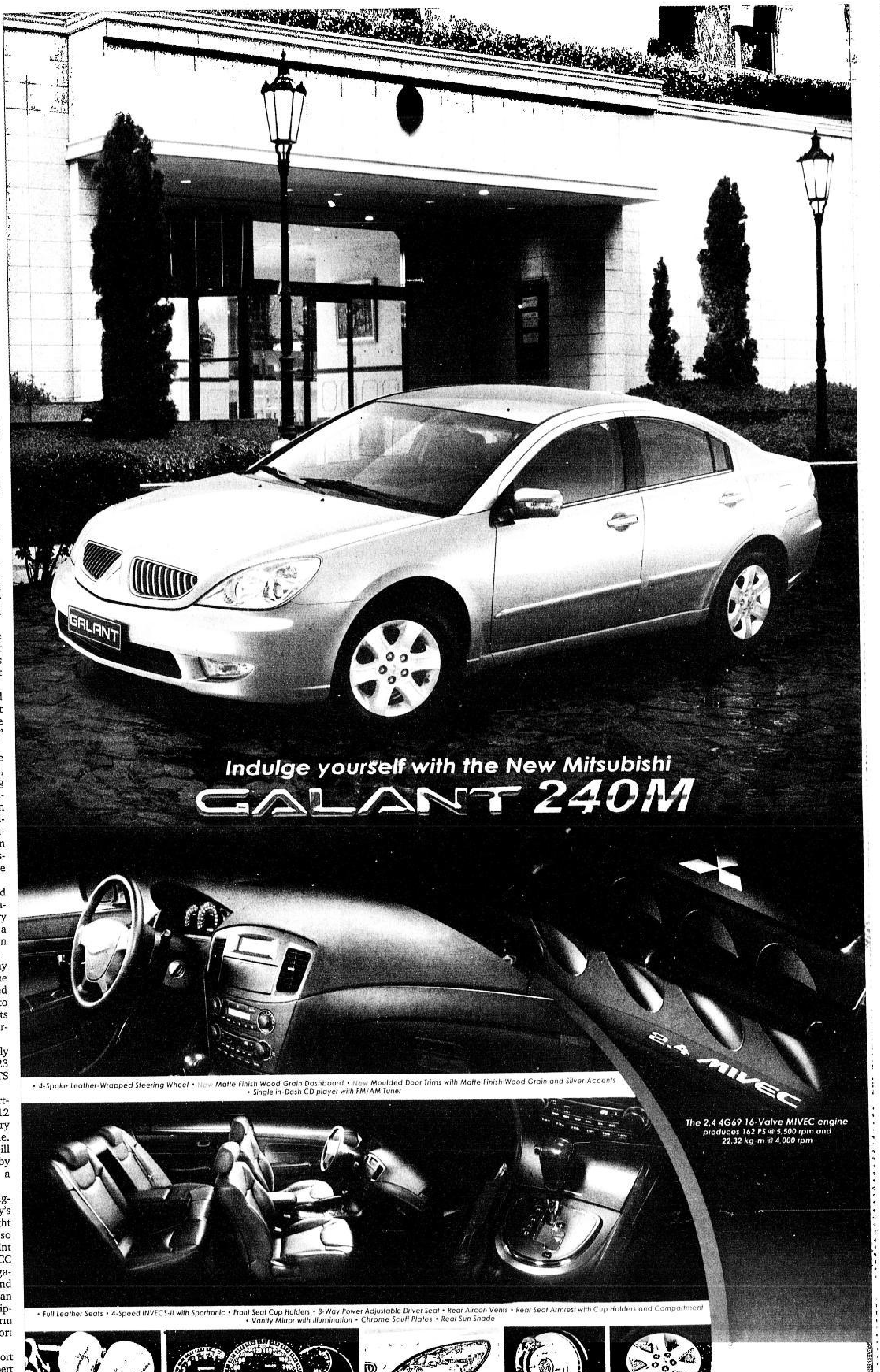
RoRo presently accounts for over 23 percent of the ATS freight business.

ATS has converted SuperFerry 12 and the SuperFerry 9 is next in line. These two ships will bring up capacity by 102 containers a trip.

To further augment the company's share in the freight market, ATSC also entered into a joint venture with MCC Transport Singapore Pte Ltd and Mercantile Ocean Maritime Co. (Filipinas) Inc. to form MCC Transport Philippines Inc.

MCC Transport Singapore is an expert at container vessel operations and chartering while Mercantile Ocean Maritime is a Philippine company with worldwide and local sales expertise. ATSC will also bring in the local expertise.

MCC Transport Philippines is currently operating its first 400 TEU container ship, offering regular weekly sailings, servicing the ports of Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.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BDO acquires Amex banking business in RP

Deal valued at less than P2B

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER ACQUIRING THE LARGER Equitable PCI Bank last year, retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro EPCI Inc. has entered into a new deal to buy out the Philippine consumer banking operations of global financial services giant American Express Bank.

The deal, which seeks to strengthen BDO's hold in the mass affluent consumer segment, involves the purchase of the US bank's peso and US dollar credit card portfolios as well as the consumer banking services of its thrift bank unit American Express Savings Bank (AESB). Banking sources estimated the transaction value at less than P2 billion.

In a statement Friday night, the country's second biggest banking group announced its successful bid to acquire Amex' local operations. The transaction includes a fresh partnership agreement with American Express that will allow BDO to issue American Express cards in the country.

"Besides gaining access to a rapidly growing portfolio of high-spending customers, we see AESB as an excellent venue for expanding our consumer banking business, particularly in terms of tapping a more affluent customer base," said BDO chair Teresita Sy.

BDO plans to eventually consolidate Amex's business with its subsidiary, BDO Private Bank, formerly Banco Santander Philippines Inc. BDO bought out the local business of Spanish bank Santander in 2003 and has since kept it as a separate commercial bank subsidiary focused on the upper-income market.

"The acquisition of the American Express business in the Philippines ties in with our vision for long-term growth and value in the industry," Sy said.

Although Amex has very small banking operations in the country, it has a strong niche in the high-end credit card business. It has been issuing Amex credit cards in the Philippines for the last 90 years and holds a big portfolio of high-spending customers, with balances and average spend levels far above those of competitors.

Maybank CURRENCIES

August 19, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.744934	1.000000	46.5980
Japan	Yen	0.006515	0.008746	0.4075
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477503	1.983400	92.4225
Hongkong	Dollar	0.095273	0.127894	5.9596
Switzerland	Franc	0.612208	0.821828	38.2955
Canada	Dollar	0.691868	0.928764	43.2785
Singapore	Dollar	0.485647	0.651933	30.3788
Australia	Dollar	0.584767	0.784991	36.5790
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.976059	2.652661	123.6087
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198628	0.266638	12.4248
Brunei	Dollar	0.484070	0.649815	30.2801
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022816	0.030628	1.4272
UAE	Dirham	0.202852	0.272309	12.6891
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.342400	62.5532
Korea	Won	0.000787	0.001057	0.0493
China	Yuan**	0.097966	0.131510	6.1281
Argentina	Peso	0.235367	0.315956	14.7229
Brazil	Real	0.354899	0.476417	22.2001
Denmark	Kroner	0.134379	0.180391	8.4059
India	Rupee	0.018086	0.024278	1.1313
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212656	0.285470	13.3023
Mexico	New Peso	0.066473	0.089234	4.1581
New Zealand	Dollar	0.506104	0.679394	31.6584
Norway	Kroner	0.124719	0.167423	7.8016
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012333	0.016556	0.7715
South Africa	Rand	0.099505	0.133576	6.2244
Sweden	Kroner	0.106607	0.143109	6.6686
Syria	Pound	0.014535	0.019512	0.9092
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022488	0.030188	1.4067
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000347	0.000466	0.0217

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Aug. 16, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Aug. 16, 2007

Volatile trading seen to continue

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TRADING IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN volatile this week as investors continue to track global market developments.

Trading resumes tomorrow as Monday has been declared a special non-working holiday in celebration of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Day.

The local stock market erased its gains for the year on heavy selling caused by fears of a credit squeeze following concerns on the US subprime market.

AB Capital Securities noted in weekly note to clients that investors have been exiting from stocks and liquidating their positions in mutual funds as concerns about the US subprime situation persisted.

"What made the situation worse was the lack of transparency with regards to the magnitude of the problem. The result: investors pressing the panic button and one of the worst single week selloff in history," Jovis Vistan, head of research at AB Capital Securities said.

The PSEi fell 397.62 points or 12.1 percent week-on-week to 2,884.34.

Leading the global market's selloff were financial issues, which have been dumped on growing concerns of collateralized debt obligation (CDO).

Vistan noted that more than $100 billion worth of structured cash CDOs, which are backed by subprime loans as collateral, were issued in the US in the fourth quarter of last year alone.

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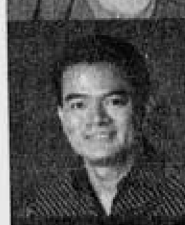
Bo Sanchez : Leading with Integrity, Kindness and, yes, Toughness. How do you lead your organization in times when compromise seems to be widely accepted? How do you lead with kindness and be tough enough to lead with discipline and integrity. Find out how as Bo Sanchez, popular speaker and best-selling author of Thank God He's the Boss! (and many others) shares his leadership journey.

Maria Ressa : Leading with Excellence. Raising the bench marks while rising above office politics. How do you lead when you've been given the task to change the culture of your organization? Former CNN top correspondent, Bureau Chief for Asia and ABS-CBN News top post Ressa shares her experience on how she led an organization to rise above their differences and accept a new vision of professionalism.

Vivienne Tan : Teaching your leaders to be "intrapreneurs". Vivienne Tan shares how you can inspire your people to lead with an ownership attitude. Tan also shares how she handles the 'burden' or responsibility of the family name.



Louie Benedict Hernandez : Leading local, thinking global. Hernandez is the president and co-founder of eTelecare. His company practically opened up the country's int'l outsourced call center sector that now generates dollar revenues and employment to thousands. eTelecare is the first Filipino call center to be listed in the NASDAQ.

Raquel Fortun - Challenge #5: Leadership and passion. Dedication to your calling. Love it or leave it. That's Fortun's advise when it comes to your work and your career. Be inspired by the story of how the country's top forensic pathologist, made difficult career decisions in her life.

Rico Hizon. Challenge #6 – Leading in a cross-cultural environment. Rico Hizon produces, reports and presents the live daily business and finance programme Asia Business Report on BBC World. Working in Singapore and with BBC poses everyday challenges to a leader. Dealing with different personalities and a team with different cultures and backgrounds has given Rico a wider perspective and global leadership wisdom.

Butch Jimenez : The Leader as Mentor. Leading your team to execute and take responsibility for results. PLDT top executive, Butch Jimenez, shares how he mentors and leads his team by example. He shares how crucial a winning attitude is when leading. He is the head of the TOYM Foundation and producer of Rizal, Muro-Ami and Death Row.

Challenge #7 - Life Balance. Our TOYM speakers answer your questions when it comes to achieving life balance. Sure, you're successful in your field, but how about the other aspects in life? How do we manage and lead our own lives in the midst of all these leadership challenges? This session closes with the success keys to meeting the challenge of multi-tasking, leading our families harmoniously, and making sure we don't miss out on the most important things in life-our relationships.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 17, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	32.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	54	55	53	53.5	2,946,900
73.5	51.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	55.5	56	53	53.5	3,879,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	805	805	795	800	9,840
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	19,000
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	4,810,000
75.5	36.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	49.5	53	47.5	49	4,330,300
65.5	32.5	Philippine National Bank	42	42.5	41	42	2,566,600
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	60	60	59.5	59.5	12,100
39.57	14.35	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	20.75	20.75	5,632,000
90	47	Security Bank Corp.	65	68.5	65	67	5,500
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	51	52	50.5	51	772,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
1.98	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.74	17,493,000
16.25	1.84	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	9	9.5	8.5	8.9	333,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	420,000
1,725.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	300
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.05	3.15	2.95	3	3,730,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	7,000
1,005.00	219	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	700	715	690	715	19,490
2,250.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,040.00	2,055.00	2,040.00	2,055.00	1,230
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	1,427,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4	4.35	3.95	4	27,263,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.28	1,370,000
70	42	First Gen Corp.	56.5	59	56.5	57	2,053,800
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	70.5	71	69	69	750,400
15	8.7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12.75	13.25	11.75	11.75	7,269,300
116	15.5	Manila Electric Co. "A"	77.5	81	73.5	74	657,800
118	24.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	80	82.5	73	76	2,021,800
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	46,234,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.45	4.65	11,681,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.1	7.4	6.7	6.7	270,000
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.08	1.14	1.06	1.06	473,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.9	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	587,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.86	1.86	391,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	46.5	49	44	44	2,237,500
8.5	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	1,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.38	1.38	1,686,000
4.05	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.14	2.14	2.06	2.06	365,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60	62.5	59	59	86,900
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	65	65	60	60	325,300
0.66	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.43	650,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	3,402,000
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.26	250,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.57	EEI Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.65	2.85	7,422,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	9.5	9.5	9	9	1,811,000
9.2	4.5	Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.2	5.6	5	5.2	9,177,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	3.75	4	3.75	3.75	924,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.0775	Picop Resources Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.28	0.28	31,920,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.8	A. Soriano Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3	30,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.08	0.065	0.065	47,500,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.5	0.5	12,150,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.85	6,584,000
3.35	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	3.35	2.6	3.35	3,094,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	123,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.8	6,137,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	66,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.95	23,642,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.76	1.64	1.66	2,636,000
590	341.67	Ayala Corp.	417.5	427.5	400	402.5	351,250
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	100,000
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.6	10,743,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	563,000
6.9	1	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.4	3.4	182,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.8	251,000
14.5	5.6	J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	16,000
11.5	0.33	Multitech Investments Corp.	3.75	4.05	2.7	3.05	3,679,000
8.2	2.7	PAL Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.3	5.3	134,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.31	0.31	9,470,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	42,000
452.5	202.36	SM Investments Corp.	325	325	302.5	312.5	308,050
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	600,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.25	0.26	17,940,000
1.06	0.54	Solid Group Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	290,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	14.25	15.5	14.25	15	13,900
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.29	2,150,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.08	1.1	1	1	1,471,000
8.9	6	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	6	6.2	6	6.2	13,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.61	0.67	0.57	0.57	1,680,000
19.25	10.83	Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13	13.25	17,936,100
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.1	1.12	1	1	5,871,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,770,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.34	0.34	1,640,000
0.99	0.45	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.66	0.67	30,370,000
0.47	0.047	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.16	0.16	20,020,000
1.48	0.4	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.99	1	0.93	0.93	6,320,000
2.44	1.07	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.32	1.38	97,537,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.25	0.26	0.23	0.23	720,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.46	0.46	1,490,000
4.4	1.54	Megaworld Corp.	2.85	2.9	2.7	2.75	93,361,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	20,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.24	0.24	310,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.32	0.34	8,250,000
23	11.75	Robinson Land Corp.	15	15	14.5	14.75	4,144,800
5.9	1.37	SM Development Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.15	3.15	1,991,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.3	9.4	26,324,000
3.25	0.8	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.7	850,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.46	0.47	2,610,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.215	0.215	6,530,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.65	4.75	4.35	4.5	7,980,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	137,200
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9	9.2	8.8	8.8	1,343,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.1	1.12	5,483,000
1,445.00	970	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,245.00	1,260.00	1,220.00	1,230.00	273,350
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,285.00	2,350.00	2,285.00	2,295.00	302,940
7.9	3.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6	6.1	5.8	6	2,749,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.17	5,250,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	1,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.7	1,521,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.027	0.027	45,600,000
29.5	7.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14	14	13.5	13.5	5,000
2.9	1.6	Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	300,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.155	0.16	136,170,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	37,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.042	0.044	217,100,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.26	2.4	627,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	34,000
6.8	2.95	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	130,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	2,201,800
2.16	0.88	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	80,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.42	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.3	2.65	2,130,000
0.98	0.28	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.38	0.38	3,970,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.66	0.68	5,360,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	462,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.35	4.6	4.2	4.2	1,659,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	10	10.25	9.8	9.8	252,400
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	13	13.25	12	12	321,500
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.009	0.0095	0.0085	0.0085	138,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.75	132,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	5,000
21.25	7.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	11.5	11.75	10.25	10.5	3,858,300
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	17,000
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.28	1.34	1.02	1.06	155,349,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	12,280,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,400,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.018	163,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.02	68,500,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	9.9	9.9	7.3	7.3	2,531,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	378,400,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	4.85	4.95	4.4	4.5	18,121,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	25	26.5	25	26	288,100
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.7	0.7	1,660,000
1.8	0.54	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.1	1.1	1	1	6,502,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	1,630,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	348,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.017	62,600,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.015	0.016	551,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	791.76 DOWN	15.02	48,414,860	937,336,765.00
Industrial	3,951.80 DOWN	177.53	161,233,800	1,205,031,675.00
Holding Firms	1,593.25 DOWN	62.87	337,592,300	482,848,895.00
Property	1,310.93 DOWN	39.70	796,224,900	4,171,436,530.00
Service	1,389.63 UP	10.04	433,500,190	1,215,614,370.00
Mining & Oil	4,472.15 DOWN	304.65	1,914,173,400	376,419,400.00
All Shares Index	1,865.22 DOWN	36.84		
PSEi	2,884.34 DOWN	57.97		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,691,139,450	8,388,687,635.00

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Risk premium on RP 5-year bonds rising

Investors spooked by US subprime market

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INVESTOR SCARE OVER THE US SUBprime market has taken its toll on Philippine bonds, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who also serves as acting national treasurer, said that because of the nervousness over the US subprime credit market, the Philippine five-year bonds now fetch a premium of 230 basis points, compared to below 200 bps in the first half of the year.

This means that investors see Philippine bonds as more risky, thus they want a higher interest on their placements.

"There is loss of confidence on emerging market credit, which has the same credit rating as the US subprime market," Tan said in a briefing last Friday.

The US subprime market is composed of high-risk borrowers of housing loans, and recent defaults have raised concerns that banks and fund management firms with a large exposure to this market could be in for a hard time.

Finance officials said it was fortunate that the Philippine government had already completed its foreign, commercial borrowing requirement for 2007 early this year, and so it does not need to tap the international, commercial market for funding.

In January, the government sold $1 billion worth of global bonds, completing its commercial, foreign borrowing program for the year in one bond issue.

This is on top of the $1.466 billion worth of official development assistance programmed to be borrowed for the year.

The foreign-currency denominated loans are intended largely to pay off maturing liabilities to foreign creditors.

Tan admitted there was no demand at the moment for sovereign issues by emerging markets, including the Philippines, especially after some mortgage financing firms in the United States were reported to be facing financial difficulties due to defaults by clients.

The finance official said, however, that compared with other emerging markets, the Philippines was still better off.

He explained that the risk premium of bonds issued by competing countries has been much higher compared to the Philippines.

"Investors are somehow discerning the fundamental strength of the Philippines," Tan said.

IFC agrees to restructure $14.5-M Mariwasa loan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE WORLD BANK'S INVESTMENT ARM said it had agreed to restructure its $14.5-million investment in the country's largest ceramic tile maker.

The International Finance Corp. said in a statement that it had led a group of lenders in negotiations with owners of Mariwasa Manufacturing to agree on a debt restructuring deal.

IFC said the deal signed recently called for a new shareholder and management structure as well as more focused marketing strategies.

The statement quoted Surasak Kraiwitchaicharoen, president of subsidiary firm Mariwasa Siam Ceramics (MSC), as pledging to focus more energy on improving the company's profitability and financial stability by growing the business in the domestic market as well as overseas.

The revised marketing strategy prompts Mariwasa to tap other markets like Guam, Indonesia, Japan, Saipan, Singapore, South Africa and Thailand.

IFC first invested in Mariwasa in 1999, but the company defaulted in 2003 amid increased competition, slowing demand, spiraling electricity costs and loss of market share to imported ceramic tiles.

Jesse Ang, IFC acting country manager, welcomed the restructuring deal.

"With IFC's renewed support, we hope to enhance Mariwasa's efficiency and its ability to find niche markets," he added.

STI to put up new center

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

STI, ONE OF THE LARGEST EDucational institutions in the Philippines, plans to put up a modern academic center in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

The new school building is estimated to cost P250 million.

STI president Monico V. Jacob said in a statement that a lease contract was recently awarded to STI by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) for its Campus Gateway project.

"STI is now geared up for the construction of the building due to be completed in 2008," Jacob said.

Jacob said that the eight-story complex will house a modern school, a research and development center and state-of-the art gymnasium.

It is part of STI's P1.5-billion expansion program, which includes the recent establishment of the DLS-STI Megaclinic in Megamall, investments in Delos Santos-STI Medical center and the expansion of STI campuses through acquisition of properties nationwide.

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Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.2897	1.2918
Philamlife Balanced Fund	0.9793	0.9379
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.3368	1.3286
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.1865	1.1831

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PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	1.2546	1.2617
PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.1669	1.1713
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	0.9899	0.9883
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.1551	1.2840
PELAC Balanced Fund	0.9104	0.9596

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Apple's iMac gets a major makeover

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

APPLE INC. HAS ALWAYS been known for dishing out avant garde, minimalist, clean and visually impressive products.

Last week was no different as the company unveiled the 4th iteration of its all-in-one iMac, which for those not yet familiar, is Apple's line of desktop computers.

Just like the previous generation, the new iMac has everything behind the LCD panel, only this time, Apple was able to get everything and more into a much slimmer—barely 4-cm thick at the edge—anodized aluminum and glass encasement.

The new iMac comes in two sizes: 20- and 24-inch widescreen models.

"Although the new iMacs are packed with more powerful specs and carries the latest applications, they are actually priced lower than their previous model counterparts. For example, the 20-inch model starts at just P67,390, which is P29,700 less than the previous 20-inch. The 24-inch, on the other hand, starts at P102,690 and is P23,700 less than the previous 24-inch," explained Darren Sng, Apple senior software product marketing manager for Asia Pacific.

Goodbye plastic, matte display

Designers at Apple bid goodbye to the white polycarbonate plastic front panel that defined the previous generation of iMacs. Gone also is the matte display as the new iMac now sports a glossy one, which is bordered in black and is now covered by a scratch-resistant glass.

THE NEW iMac is much thinner and is built largely of glass and a single sheet of aluminum.

THIS computer boasts of an elegant glass cover

Performance-wise the new iMac should be faster than the last one since it is now powered by a faster dual-core Intel processor with speeds ranging from 2 GHz to 2.4 GHz (using Intel Core 2 Duo) and up to 2.8 GHz (using Intel Core 2 Extreme).

The new iMac is also equipped with ATI Technologies' next generation of graphics (either the entry-level Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB of graphics double data rate 3 memory or the higher Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB of GDDR3 memory) as well as the option to beef up internal storage up to 1 terabyte to accommodate a user's growing library of digital photos, movies and music.

Located at the back panel (lower left) are several connectivity options, which include gigabit ethernet, AirPort Extreme 802.11n wireless networking (now five times more powerful and twice the range than what is previously offered), integrated Bluetooth 2.0 (a total of five is available including the two located on the keyboard), and an infrared receiver for use with the included remote control.

It integrates almost everything into a slim enclosure for a clutter-free desktop

Notable redesign

Another notable redesign in the new iMac is its ultrathin anodized aluminum keyboard.

How thin? It now offers a key height of just 0.83 cm (versus 2.26 cm of the previous version). The keyboard includes special function keys for one-touch control of Mac features, and two USB 2.0 ports for connecting with the iPod, Mighty Mouse, digital camera and other devices.

Apple also used the introduction of the new iMac as an occasion to introduce iLife '08, iWork '08 and enhancements to its iMac online service.

The iLife '08 (retail at P5,090) is the latest version of the company's digital lifestyle application suite, which is comprised of the iPhoto digital-image management program, iMovie (for editing digital video), iWeb (for building Web pages), iDVD (for creating DVDs) and GarageBand (for recording music).

"Major changes to the iPhoto include a new Events feature that unclatter tons of photos by hiding photos with similar event within one representative photo. A 'skimming' feature is also introduced, which lets users see the different photos hidden within these representative photos," explained Melvyn Chen, Apple's product marketing manager for Asia Pacific.

The digital-video editor iMovie was also upgraded to support the advanced video codec high definition format. The iMovie also adopted the "skimming" feature found in iPhoto so that users could also skim through videos without having to play clips to see what they contain.

Also installed in the new iMac is Apple's productivity suite called iWork '08 (retails at P4,790). It includes three applications: Pages '08, the streamlined word processor for the Mac, Keynote '08 that easily creates stunning, cinema-quality presentations, and the latest addition, Numbers '08 a familiar (because it will remind you of the Microsoft Excel) yet revolutionary new spreadsheet application.

"Even with these upgrades and new features, system requirements are gentle to users of older Macs. You'll just need an Intel, PowerPC G5 or G4 machine with a 500MHz or better processor in addition to 512MB of RAM minimum, running OS X10.4.10 to enjoy these beefed up applications," promised Sng.

Microsoft brings Windows Mobile 6 to RP

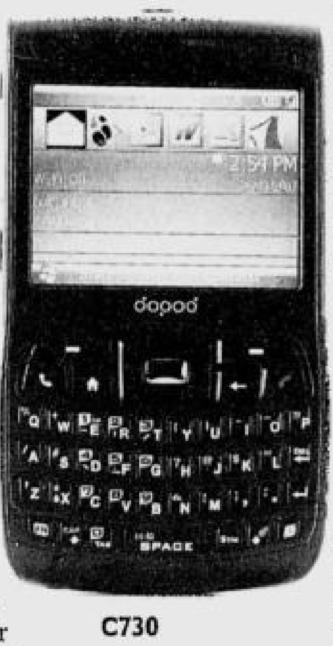
By Riza T. Olchondra

MICROSOFT HAS LOCALLY RELEASED Windows Mobile 6, an improved suite of Microsoft Office applications for mobile devices such as smartphones.

The company said that the new version of its mobile software platform, launched in India last month, offers better functionality and added support for Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook email, which used to be available only on PCs but are now becoming standard for smartphones.

The platform allows users to navigate and edit Word documents and Excel spreadsheets in their original format, without affecting tables, images or text.

The enhanced user interface of Windows Mobile 6 lets users view PowerPoint presentations, as well as e-mail in their original HTML format, complete with live links. There is also access to Microsoft products such as SharePoint sites and Exchange Server 2007.



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Windows Mobile 6 also includes Windows Live for Windows Mobile, which provides customers with a rich set of Windows Live services—chatting with more than one person at one time, using animated avatars, quickly sending a file or image, or recording and sending voice notes.

All Windows Mobile 6-powered devices include Direct Push Technology for up-to-date e-mail delivery and automatic synchronization of Outlook calendars, tasks and contacts through Microsoft Exchange Server.

It also offers device security and management features, including the capability to remotely wipe all data from a device in case it is lost or stolen.

"In a fast-paced, digital world, having access to information and digital content right at our fingertips is essential for business success. Windows Mobile 6 is providing users with innovative mobile technologies that offer mobility and connectivity to make life simpler, more convenient and more productive," said Microsoft Philippines senior product manager Jojo Ayson.

"Microsoft invests a lot in research and development to be able to come up with great software that will make people become more productive in their work," said Ayson.

Other improved features include the smart calendar bar, new one-click options in e-mail management, synchronization with Windows Vista and powerful search and filtering options are built to maximize business productivity.

It also has built-in Microsoft.NET Compact Framework and Microsoft SQL Server and Bluetooth wireless or cable connection, which makes it easier for the user to create, access and track information and sales and inventory tools while away from their desks.

Windows Mobile 6 is already built into new models of Taiwanese firm HTC, which recently bought smartphone maker Dopod.

Existing users of HTC's 838Pro, D810, P800W and U1000 can also migrate from the Windows Mobile 5 operating system to Windows Mobile 6 by downloading a code from the company web site.

Other partners of Microsoft Philippines such as HP, Palm and Samsung are expected to launch models with Windows Mobile 6 as well.

Text messaging goes a notch higher

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POPULARITY OF SOCIAL networking sites and user-generated content has transcended the Internet and has crossed over to the mobile world.

Chikka Asia's new instant messaging service, Chikka 2.0, capitalizes on the new wave of Web technologies and applications that use the Internet as platform, said chief operating officer Chito Bustamante.

"Our own revolution is inspired by this 'Internet Renaissance,' but is more significantly imbued with the best of mobile services we have been enabling for the last six years, for some of the world's most demanding mobile markets," he said.

Chikka 2.0, which features the fourth version of the Chikka Messenger, not only allows users to send text messages from the PC to the mobile phone, but also operates with popular instant messaging clients Google Talk, Yahoo Messenger, MSN, AIM and ICQ.

This means users can consolidate contacts from other instant messaging platforms with their Chikka contacts, both on the PC and mobile phone.

The new Chikka service also allows the delivery of various mobile content and mobile call credits from the Web to the mobile device, a feature that the company expects will quickly catch the fancy of Filipinos and other Chikka users around the globe.

With this new feature, Chikka users can set up personal profiles, upload photos and videos, and blog within their Chikka profile pages.

"Chikka 2.0 now addresses mobile communities with fast and reliable connectivity for services that include the transfer of mobile call credits, the delivery of mobile content such as tones and images, and of course, (short messaging service and multimedia messaging service)," Bustamante said.

"These new mobile capabilities are expected to make popular online communities even more vibrant. We envision Internet and mobile communities uniting like never before," he added.

Chikka's wireless applications are deployed though the networks of more than 50 mobile carriers in the Philippines, United States, United Kingdom, Spain, India, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. It has a community of more than 38 million users.

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-G1: Multimedia convergence

By Markku Seguerra

CONSIDER THIS: A 3.5-INCH LCD screen, 2GB of internal storage, a PSP-inspired user interface, and Wi-Fi connectivity. Now tell me you can find these features in your ordinary digicam. But are these what you really need?

Big features in a big package

With a 3.5-inch LCD screen, the G1's heft is noticeable compared with that of other digicams cramming everything into a tiny piece of faux-metal plastic. In fact, the rear of the camera features the screen alone, unless you open the slide mechanism that reveals the camera controls. Yes, it has a slider mechanism just like a mobile phone.

This camera's internal storage is exactly what we'd want in every model, more than enough storage for a day of click-happy shooting even at its full 6-megapixel resolution, with space to spare for older albums and music.

This high-end model features Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar optics capable of maximizing image quality at full resolution. Also available is its combination ISO-boost/image stabilization technology called Super SteadyShot, to let you capture sharp images in non-ideal lighting conditions.

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Vario Tessar
SONY
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SONY DSC-G1

Dare to please

The large LCD display allows you to compose and review your photos with ease, in fact too easily that you begin to wonder if everyone around you is looking at your screen without much effort. The user interface mimics that of the PSP, which makes playing with the menu and settings very entertaining.

The screen is put to good use with the camera's engaging playback features. Capable of grouping photos into albums and date ranges, you get view options typically available in your desktop software. More importantly, slideshows with the G1 is a definite crowd-pleaser with presentation-type transitions and background music to boot.

Sony's InfoLithium battery is also used in this model, capable of displaying the remaining life of a battery before it runs out. Surprisingly, despite the large screen and fancy interface, this unit has over three hours of battery life.

To find out how the Sony G1 fared, grab a copy of Mobile Philippines July-August issue for just 100 pesos from newsstands.

PROJECTORS ARE IN AGAIN

AS THE cost of watching movies in theater houses continues to rise, more and more people start looking for alternatives that are more affordable but are comparable to theater screens in quality

Acer attempts to address this need with its PD 323 projector, which allows movie viewing in the comfort of one's home.

Powered by Acer's Digital Light Processing (DLP) technology, the Acer PD 323 boasts of a 1024 x 768 resolution (native XGA) and the more powerful 1280 x 1024 resolution (maximum SXGA), plus a 2000:1 ratio. In the brightness category, PD 323 is no pushover with its 2,000 ANSI lumens (standard viewing) or 1,600 ANSI lumens (economy) brightness capability. In terms of lamp life, PD 323 is a winner as it takes pride of a 2,000-hour lamp life for standard viewing, or even longer when viewing using economy features.

Gov't corporations remit ₱6.3B in dividends

Full-year target of ₱3.17B exceeded in first 7 months

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTED P6.3 billion in dividends from state-owned firms in the first seven months of the year, as monitoring of their finances have been tightened in line with efforts to consolidate the national budget.

The Department of Finance reported Friday that P3.178 billion of the total came from government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Among the GOCCs, the Philippine Ports Authority turned in the largest amount at P1.4 billion, followed by Philippine National Oil Co. with P1.2 billion.

Government financial institutions or GFIs accounted for the balance, with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas contributing P2.5 billion.

The seven-month dividend collection surpassed the DOF goal of P4 billion for the entire year.

On top of the dividends, the DOF said the government had also collected from reported, the government likewise collected P5.7 billion in guarantee fees from GOCCs and GFIs, and P37 million in interest.

Guarantee fees are charged on GOCCs that incur loans covered by sovereign guarantees. The national government charges interests on loans that it extends to these firms.

Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr. told reporters that GOCCs and GFIs were directed to strictly observe the requirement of remitting part of their income to state coffers. Most of these firms are required by their charters to remit at least 50 percent of their net income to the national government.

Paul said that in the past, many GOCCs had failed to remit dividends to the national government but the DOF recently tightened its watch over these firms.

"We talked to some GOCCs and told them they should lessen their dependence on the national government. It's time for them to help the government," Paul said.

Some GOCCs have been relying heavily on subsidies from the national government for their operations, one reason for its budget woes over the past years. The DOF said fixing the national government's fiscal house in order entailed financial discipline among GOCCs.

The dividends, guarantee fees and interest collected from state-owned firms formed part of the recorded income of the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

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Asean ministers to boost efforts for integration

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF Southeast Asian Nations are expected to widen the scope of the region's integration when economic ministers meet in Makati City next week.

This developed as the Asean started implementing the blueprint for a single market and production base.

Trade Assistant Secretary Ramon Vincente T. Kabigting told reporters the 10-member bloc was poised to add a twelfth sector where economic integration would be a priority.

"Logistics services have been identified as a new priority sector," Kabigting said.

"The inclusion of the logistics sector is good for the Philippines considering that our domestic industry is good and could be better," Kabigting said.

In a declaration issued in 2003 during a summit held in Bali, Indonesia—called Bali Concord II—Asean leaders agreed to establish the Asean Economic Community (AEC) through integration starting with 11 priority sectors.

These were subsequently identified as the industries related to the manufacture and processing of the electronics, automotive, garments and textiles, wood-based, agricultural, fisheries and rubber.

Also identified were five service sectors, involving information and communication technology-dubbed e-Asean-air travel, tourism and healthcare.

The Bali Concord II also set the target of achieving the AEC in 2020, which was advanced to 2015 through an agreement forged in the 12th Asean Summit held in Cebu last January.

Kabigting explained that the 39th Asean Economic Ministers Meeting to be held on Aug. 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, was regarded as pivotal for integration efforts.

"This is a changeover meeting because it would signal the change from the period when the blueprint for integration was crafted to the first year when this blueprint would be implemented," he explained.

He added that the 39th AEM would basically check whether the draft of the Asean Charter—which was a highlight of the Asean Ministerial Meeting held last month-covered the economic aspirations of the group.

DENR inks deal on ₱116-M Camiguin project

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources signed last week a memorandum of agreement to implement the P116-million Camiguin Coastal Resource Project.

The project is aimed at pushing for more sustainable environmental practices in the province, covering five towns—Mambajao, Mahinog, Guinsiliban, Sagay and Catarman.

Located in the northern tip of Mindanao, the pear-shaped island of Camiguin has several falls and springs, seven volcanoes and other ecotourism attractions.

The New Zealand Agency for International Development has provided a grant of P87.5 million for the coastal resource project, while the national government contributed P28.6 million as counterpart fund.

New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines David Pine said he is confident that the project would increase natural productivity in the areas while improving the quality of life of Camiguin folks.

"We are optimistic that after five years, an integrated coastal resources management would have been sustainably implemented at the barangay, municipal and provincial levels," Pine said.

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PSALM
POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation *("PSALM")* Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the *"Committee")* invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Hydroelectric Power Complex consisting of the 75 MW Ambuklao Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Bokod, Benguet and the 100 MW Binga Hydroelectric Power Plant located at Itogon, Benguet

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (*"LOI"*) to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 14 September 2007** (the *"LOI Submission Deadline"*). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 1,000.00) (the *"Participation Fee"*). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall either be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m.** on **18 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **5 September** until **19 September 2007** (the *"Deadline"*) at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : 27 August 2007 to 21 November 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : 26 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline : 28 November, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Two Million Five Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,500,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be accepted to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 20, 21 & 22, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

LOT-1 Supply and Delivery of Spare Parts of One (1) Unit Float Engine of 78 Footer Model: DD16V-92TAB and Fabrication Design
LOT-2 Delivery and Installation of Four (4) units Electronic Power Converter

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects **(HS-PB-170-PNB-07)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot-1 Supply and Delivery of Spare Parts of One (1) Unit Float Engine of 78 Footer Model: DD16V-92TAB and Fabrication Design	Php 6,000,000.00	271330H August 2007	100900H September 2007	Php 3,000.00
Lot-2 Delivery and Installation of Four (4) units Electronic Power Converter	Php 7,000,000.00			P 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **LOT-1 Supply and Delivery of Spare Parts of One (1) Unit Float Engine of 78 Footer Model: DD16V-92TAB and Fabrication Design and LOT-2 Delivery and Installation of Four (4) units Electornic Power Converter**. Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or oustanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday** to **Friday**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1*. The method of payment will be *in the form of cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***August 27, 2007, 1:30 PM* at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City**.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***September 10, 2007, 9:00 AM.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on ***September 10, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact Person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI--Aug. 20, 2007)

CREBA to hold badminton tournament

CREBA WILL HOLD a benefit badminton tournament titled "GODspeed Badminton Festival" Sept. 15 & 16. Proceeds of the event will be donated to Sto. Nino Parish in Manggahan, Pasig and San Antonio Abad in Maybunga, Pasig to fund their various activities and projects. Aside from medals, the winners in each level and category will also receive gift certificates. Leveling will be done Aug. 20 & 22, 7-10 p.m at club 650 Libis.

For sponsorship and pledges and other details contact the CREBA Secretariat at 373-2270 or JB Buenviaje at 912-5152 / 0920-906-3495. You may also contact either Sto. Nino Parish (681-3887) or San Antonio Abad Parish (641-2526).

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899-4425; 899-4427;
897-8425 (Telefax)

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912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
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FORUM ON DOLE CIRCULAR NO. 01-07
"Clarifying the Applicability of DO-18-02 to Cooperatives"
August 23, 2007, Thursday
at 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City
With
DOLE Asst. Regional Director Rebecca Chato
and Atty. Rico de Guzman
For reservations, please contact:
The PALSCON Secretariat @ 534-0035

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Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-4216 loc. 219; Fax No. (074) 442-3809

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER** (BGHMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of:

   85 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of **DRUGS AND MEDICINES**.
   40 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of **MEDICAL SUPPLIES, LABORATORY SUPPLIES & REAGENTS**.
   18 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**.

   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening. Contract shall commence January 1, 2008.
2. The BGHMC now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of:
   - a. DRUGS AND MEDICINES
   - b. MEDICAL SUPPLIES
   - c. LABORATORY SUPPLIES & REAGENTS
   - d. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **August 27 to September 6, 2007** at the **Under Five Clinic, BGHMC c/o Ms. Aurora S. Lumague**, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND PESOS (Php3,000.00) per category**. The method of payment will be in cash payable to BGHMC Cashier. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The BGHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 6, 2007 (Thursday), 2:00 p.m. at the BGHMC Cobalt Building, Baguio City**.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the **Under Five Clinic, BGHMC on or before September 17, 2007 from 8:00-12:00 NOON**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in form contained in Section 22.1 of the Bid Data Sheet (BDS). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid Opening shall be on **September 17, 2007 (Monday), 2:00 p.m. at the BGHMC Cobalt Building**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address above.
8. The BGHMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
9. For inquiries, you may call the following BAC Secretariat:

   Ms. Aurora S. Lumague – (074) 442-4216 local 359 Mobile No. 09194712846
   Ms. Teresa C. Fajardo – (074) 442-4216 local 226

(Sgd.) **NIEVES S. MACARANAS, MD, FPPS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center

(PDI–August 20 & 26, 2007)

PAMBANSANG
PANGASIWAAN
SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 453-3900/981-3800 to 30 • Website www.nfa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **September 07, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** at the SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA) SOCIAL HALL, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, to all interested rice suppliers for the supply of **TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND (260,000) MT, 5% MOLSO** long grain white rice, 25% brokens, Well-Milled, in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings with an appropriate budget from corporate resources of **Php 4.33 B.** Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, India, Australia and/or U.S.A. wherein rice can be shipped in break bulk and/or container/s. Maximum quantity to be awarded for India is 25,000 MT while Pakistan, Australia and USA shall be 50,000 MT each.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations on CFR FO basis, Documents Against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred twenty (120) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Arrival period shall be as follows:

AT LEAST 40% – SEPTEMBER 2007
BALANCE – OCTOBER 2007

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last three (3) years (2004/2005/2006) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

SUPPLIER	VOLUME (MT)
Government (with good track record)	150,000
Private (with good track record)	50,000
Government / Private (without track record	25,000

Bad Track record shall mean suppliers and/or companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2004 are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/ manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to post a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within five (5) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and instructions to bidders maybe secured starting **August 21, 2007** thru MR. PIOLITO C. SANTOS, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Chief III, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 4th Floor, Left Wing, Philippine Sugar Center Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 454-1890, 426-0569 and 454-1214.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will likewise be available from **August 21, 2007** up to **September 06, 2007** (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **August 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** at the SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA) SOCIAL HALL, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Submission of bids will be on **September 07, 2007**, between **8:00 a.m.** to **9:55 a.m.** at the SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA) SOCIAL HALL, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

All bidders are required to read and comply with the Instruction to Bidders.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **LUDOVICO J. JARINA**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–August 20, 2007)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

JMK's tapas medley

EXPERIENCE THE distinct flavors of Spanish cuisine when you visit the Julius Maggi Kitchen this month. During its series of cooking demos on Spanish Tapas for the month of August, JMK's featured chef will share recipes for calamares fritos, buñuelos, boquerones, croquetas and other specialties. Spanish tapas are now popularly known as succulent starters to whet the appetite, as accompaniment for wine and drinks, or savored at any time of the day to gratify hunger until lunch or dinnertime. Troop to the JMK and learn how to make these tapas, which are usually served in bars and Spanish restaurants, for your family at home and for friends during parties.

The Nestlé Club is also offering a lifestyle lecture on Soap Making where formulations and methods for homemade liquid soap, shampoo and fabric softener will be shared to equip homemakers with a practical business idea and as an economical substitute for expensive store-bought household products.

These free cooking demos for new and old Nestlé Club members will be held on Aug. 21, 23, 25 and 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, ground floor of the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City. A session reserved for current Nestlé Club members will be held on Aug. 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. Make your reservations by calling 727-4137 or 745-7462.

The Nestlé Club will also hold a paying class dubbed Empanada Varieties for Sale on Aug. 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. For only P350 plus a proof of purchase of Nestlé product/s worth P150, this lecture-demo with some hands-on activity will show how to make empanada variants that are baked and fried with assorted meat and vegetable fillings.

For queries on how to become part of the Nestlé Club, call Nestlé Consumer Services at 898-0061 or fax 897-0987. E-mail them at Consumer.Services@ph.nestle.com, visit www.nestlerecipes.com.ph on the web, or write to P.O. Box 1163 Makati Central Post Office, 1251 Metro Manila, Philippines.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

CIRCULAR NO. 40-P

TO : ALL SSS MEMBERS
SUBJECT : Policy on the Return of Lump Sum Retirement Benefit to Qualify Retiree to Pension Benefits under the Portability Law (RA 7699), otherwise known as "An Act Instituting Limited Portability Scheme in the Social Security Systems by Totalizing the Workers' Creditable Services or Contributions in Each of the Systems"
DATE : June 18, 2007

Republic Act No. 7699, provides as follows: "All contributions paid by such member personally and those that were paid by his employers to both Systems (SSS and GSIS) shall be considered in the processing of benefits which he can claim from either or both Systems: Provided, however, that the amount of benefits to be paid by one System shall be in proportion to the number of contributions actually remitted to that System." Hence, the Social Security Commission issued Resolution No. 13 s. 2007 approving the policy on the return of lump sum retirement benefit for the purpose of qualifying to RA 7699 as follows:

1. A retiree who wishes to convert his lump sum benefit to lifetime pension shall be allowed to return the cheque representing the lump sum retirement benefit within six (6) months from the date of settlement and apply for retirement pension under the terms and conditions of the Portability Law.
2. If the cheque has been encashed, a one percent (1%) interest per month shall be charged effective on the date of encashment to the time of application for pension. The cheque amount plus the interest shall be deducted from the proceeds of the pension benefit.

This Circular takes effect immediately.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ**
President and CEO

Approved by:

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Sgd.) **THELMO Y. CUNANAN**
Chairman

Address: SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920 64-01 • (632) 920-64-46 to 55
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web Site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Procurement of Various Defense Equipment)

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the **Special Allotment Release Order Number D-07-00818**, intends to apply the sum of **SEVENTY THREE MILLION SEVENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 73,070,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the ***Supply and Delivery of Various Defense Equipment.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following projects:

Item Nr	Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price of Bid Documents	Delivery Schedule
1	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PN(M)-02-07 55 Units 60mm Mortar w/ ILS Package	Php 38,820,000.00	Php 12,000.00	To be delivered w/in 240 calendar days upon receipt of NTP or Letter of Credit, whichever comes later.
2	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PN(M)-03-07 29 Units 81mm Mortar w/ ILS Package	Php 34,250,000.00	Php 12,000.00	To be delivered w/in 240 calendar days upon receipt of NTP or Letter of Credit, whichever comes later.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility, technical and financial checking are described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **9:00 a.m., August 28, 2007 (Tuesday)** at the ***Silid Panday Pira***, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:30 p.m., September 10, 2007 (Monday)**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **1:30 p.m., September 10, 2007 (Monday)** at the ***Silid Panday Pira*, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers or their duly-authorized representatives shall be entertained. The equipment/GOODS should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with *R.A. 7898*. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking three (3) similar contracts, within the last five (5) years, and the aggregate contract amounts should be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid; and the largest of these similar contracts must be equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC of the proposed project to be bid.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers or their duly representatives who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the AFP BAC, through the **GHQ BAC1 Secretariat** as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.
11. The AFP reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee
G/F Bulwagang Syquio
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact Person: ***Ms Edna B Malonzo***
Tel. Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6486/6487
Fax Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6485
Email add: **malonzo499@yahoo.com.ph**

(Sgd.) **BGEN JERRY V JALANDONI AFP**
Chairman, GHQ BAC1

(PDI – August 20, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

THE CONGREGATION OF THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
(CICM)

requests your prayers for

REV. FR. EUGEEN FLAMEYGH, CICM

born in Roeselare, Belgium, on January 22, 1924,
he died in Baguio City, Philippines, on August 18, 2007,
at the age of 83.

He served as Assistant Parish Priest in Paco, Metro Manila. He was Chaplain of the Young Christian Workers, Chaplain of the Singian Memorial Hospital in Manila, Rector of the CICM Seminary in Taytay, Professor of Church History at San Carlos Major Seminary, Co-Founder of the Maryhill School of Theology and Professor in various Seminaries, Universities and Sister Formation courses in Metro Manila and Baguio City.
He was assigned as Rector of Home Sweet Home, the CICM Retirement House in Baguio City, for one term.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of Home Sweet Home, Gov. Pack Road, Baguio City. Interment will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2007, at the CICM Cemetery of Maryhurst Seminary, Baguio City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at the Chapel of Home Sweet Home, Baguio City.

PLEASE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS ETERNAL REPOSE.

With great sorrow, the family of

CASTRO B R
BRIGGEN Q-2017

BRIG. GEN. BIENVENIDO RUIZ CASTRO (Ret.)

would like to announce the passing of our
beloved **Dad** and **Lolo Beans** on August 17, 2007.

Born on March 25, 1924, a veteran of the Korea and Vietnam wars,
inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame
in Fort Benning, Georgia in 2005.

Masses will be at 6:00-7:00 p.m. on August 20-24
at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

He will be laid to rest on Saturday, August 25,
at the 'Libingan ng mga Bayani' in Fort Bonifacio.

Our dear **Dad** is survived by his wife, **Aurora**,
and children **Yvonne**, **Bienvenido Jr.** (Lyn), **Benedict** (Jovi),
Malou, **Cathy** (Pierre), **Dawn** (Armand), **Bernard**, **Suzette** (Tom)
and many loving grandchildren in the US and Philippines.

In lieu of flowers, please send your monetary donations to the family
in creation of the Bienvenido Ruiz Castro Foundation for the benefit
of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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To the family and friends of the late

MRS. LIBRADA "BETY" B. GOTANCO

the following masses will be
offered today, August 20, 2007,
in remembrance of her
1st Death Anniversary

1.	**St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church** *Barangay Palanan, Makati City*	7:00 A.M & 9:00 A.M
2.	**St. Gregory Parish Church** *Barangay San Roque, Ginatilan, Cebu*	6:00 A.M.
3.	**National Shrine of the Sacred Heart** *Barangay San Antonio, Makati City*	6:00 A.M.
4.	**Sto. Niño Church**, *Tacloban City*	12 P.M.
5.	**Sto. Rosario Church**, *Cebu City*	8:30 A.M.
6.	**Sacred Heart Parish Church** *Stop and Shop, Sta. Mesa, Manila*	6:00 P.M.
7.	**Mary Mother of Good Counsel Church** *Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City*	6:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.
8.	**Sto. Tomas Church**, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	6:00 A.M.
9	**Sta. Monica Church**, *Sta. Monica, California*	

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—2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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BUSINESS

DOE pushing for faster energy sector privatization

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant last month, the Department of Energy seeks to accelerate the government's energy sector privatization plans.

"It is now the right time to review the privatization schedule ahead of us, not necessarily to alter them, but certainly to accelerate them," Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a speech before power industry stakeholders last Friday.

He said that while the planning for new generation capacity should take place now, this should not be a priority until the privatization exercise, particularly that of National Power Corp.'s assets, was completed.

"What is more important is to put in place a fair and level playing field for new investors to ensure long-term sustainability of supply. True energy security lies in a vibrant and competitive market," he said.

One way to introduce competition in the power sector, he said, was through the full operation of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM).

Although ridden with birth pains, he said the Wesm, on its first year of operation in Luzon, was able to introduce "transparency and symmetry of information" in the power sector.

"On its first year, it appears to me that the WESM has had an interesting time. The results of the first year of operations will continue to be studied by many observers, investors and other jurisdictions for the lessons that we have learned," he said.

"Despite this, the most important overall objective has been achieved—that of establishing transparency and symmetry of information. This is fundamental to our industry. Without it, there can be no competition," he added.

Only on its third month in operation last year, the market surveillance committee of WESM operator Philippine Electricity Market Corp. found indications that the trading teams of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. were manipulating prices at the electricity bourse.

After some months of investigation, PEMC found PSALM guilty of anticompetitive behavior and market power abuse.

To prevent something like this from happening again, PEMC has committed to beef up its surveillance and monitoring activities.

PEMC president Lasse Holopainen said one of his company's priorities was the establishment of a system and procedure for the detection, at close to real-time, of "abnormal market outcomes."

The new system, he said, would enable PEMC to determine specific anticompetitive behaviors or exercise of market power.

PEMC also aimed at improving its surveillance tools and monitoring to ensure the efficiency and competitiveness of the market, he said.

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MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS COMPETITION 2007
18 August - 2 September 2007

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These magical fireworks performances lasting for at least 20 minutes on each competitive night, are developed by renowned fireworks manufacturers, each representing a different country, after months and months of painstaking effort and work.

The designers use music as a starting point for the creation of the displays and the choice of music determines the rhythm and the meaning that the artist wants to give to the presentation. Then, the crucial step consists of selecting the pyrotechnics according to their esthetical and technical characteristics.

After each competitor's show, a jury of local personalities assesses the performance and the victorious team will receive a prestigious award before the grand finalé on 2 September 2007.

The event also features the "electric parade", an illuminated procession of extraordinary floats as well as the "Golden Jubilee Night Show" featuring the "Aquatic Theater" and an "Animated Light Show" that retells the historical story of Malaysia.

Spectators can relax, dine and enjoy spectacular view of the fireworks from a prime location on the concourse level of the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) where Malaysian cuisine will be served at a uniquely styled Kampung Night Village.

So keep your nose in the air this August as a sequence of pyrotechnic display will lit up the skies in Putrajaya and spend your nights being treated to a festival of lights, colour and culture.

Programme:

18 August	- Team Australia (opening ceremony)
19 August	- Team Global
22 August	- Team Malaysia
24 August	- Team Global
25 August	- Team Italy
30 August	- Team Japan
31 August	- Team Global
1 September	- Team Global
2 September	- Global / Pyrofest Canada (grand finale)

Event information

Date	: 18 August - 2 September 2007
Venue	: Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), Putrajaya, Malaysia
Host	: Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia
Producer / Organiser	: Global2000 Sdn Bhd 19-3, Jalan PJU 8/5i Perdana Business Centre Damansara Perdana Petaling Jaya 47820 Selangor Darul Ehsan Malaysia
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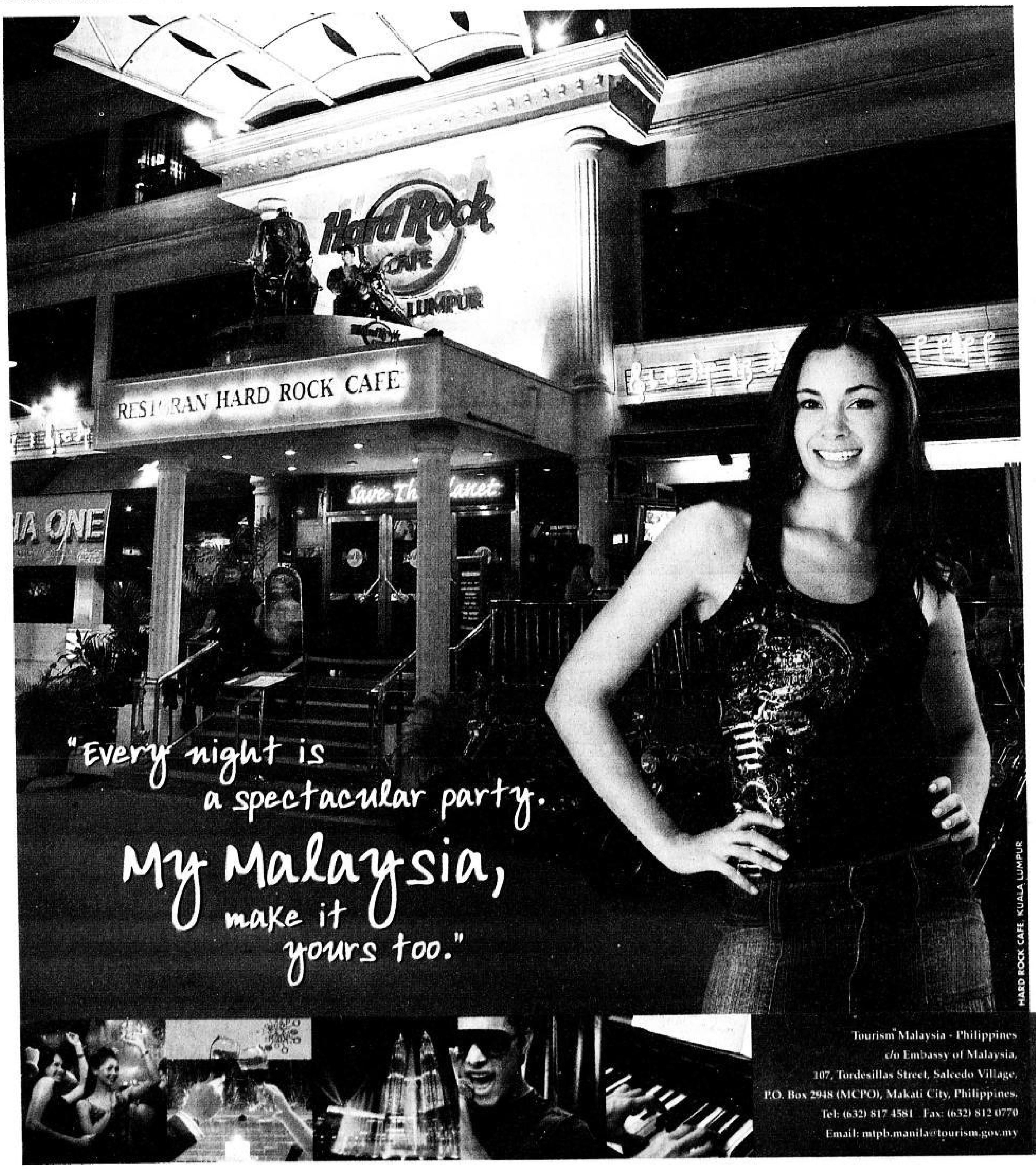
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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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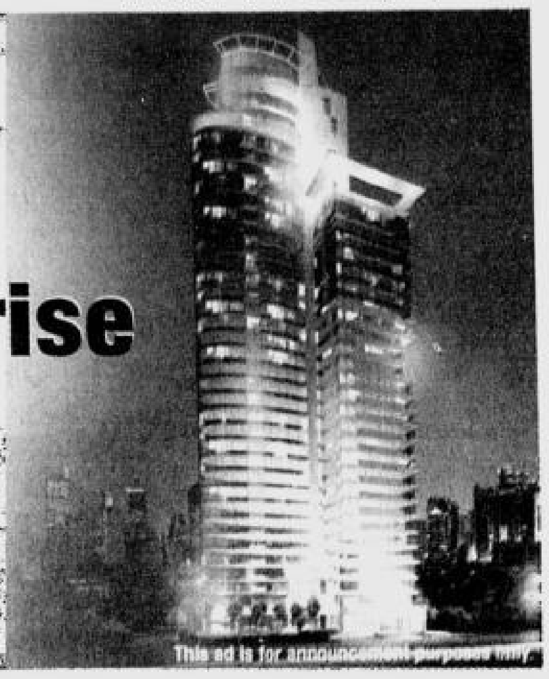
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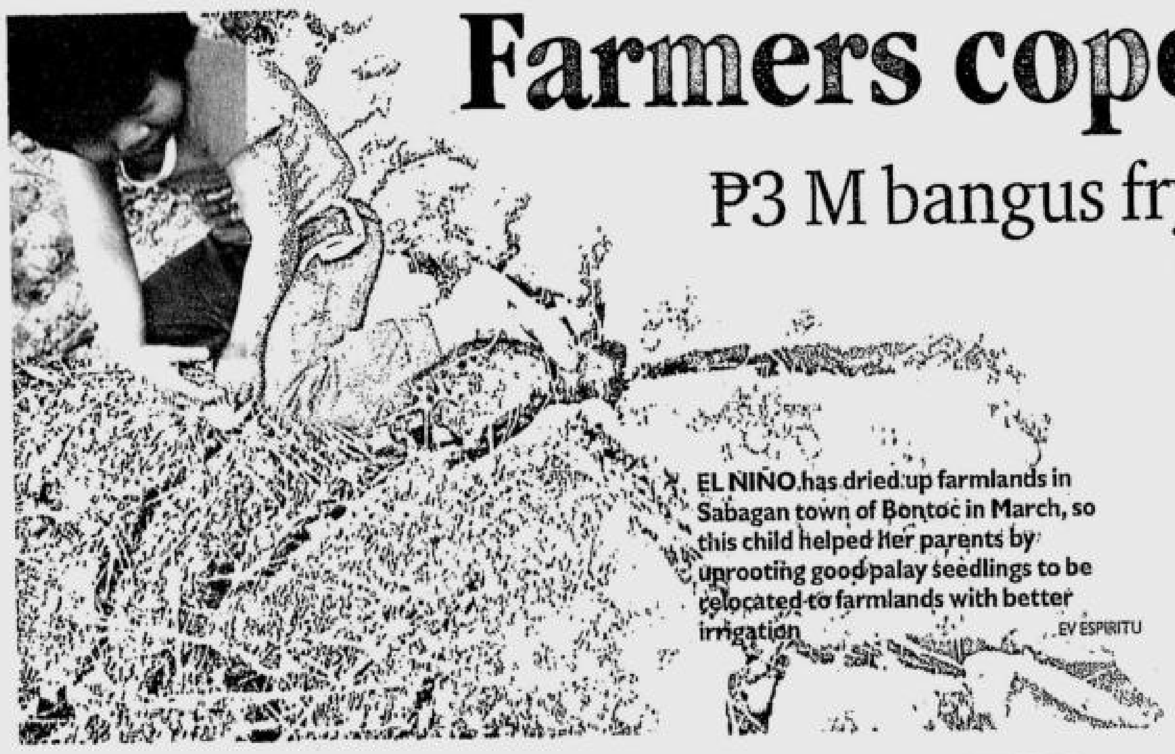
Farmers cope with rains, drought

₱3 M bangus fry, ₱2 M palay lost due to bad weather


EL NIÑO has dried up farmlands in Sabagan town of Bontoc in March, so this child helped her parents by uprooting good palay seedlings to be relocated to farmlands with better irrigation. EV ESPIRITU

Text by Delmar Cariño and Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—The rains have arrived and the drought may be over.

But between a dry spell and a prolonged wet season, the province's vegetable farmers would be concerned more about rains.

The fact is the dry spell in the last two months did not down vegetable production and supply.

The drought may have caused the lowlands' rice lands to crack but Benguet's vegetable farms continued to be moist and damp.

Julio Otinguey, a farmer from Barangay Balakbak in Kapangan town, said in his more than 40 years of farming, dry spells were rare.

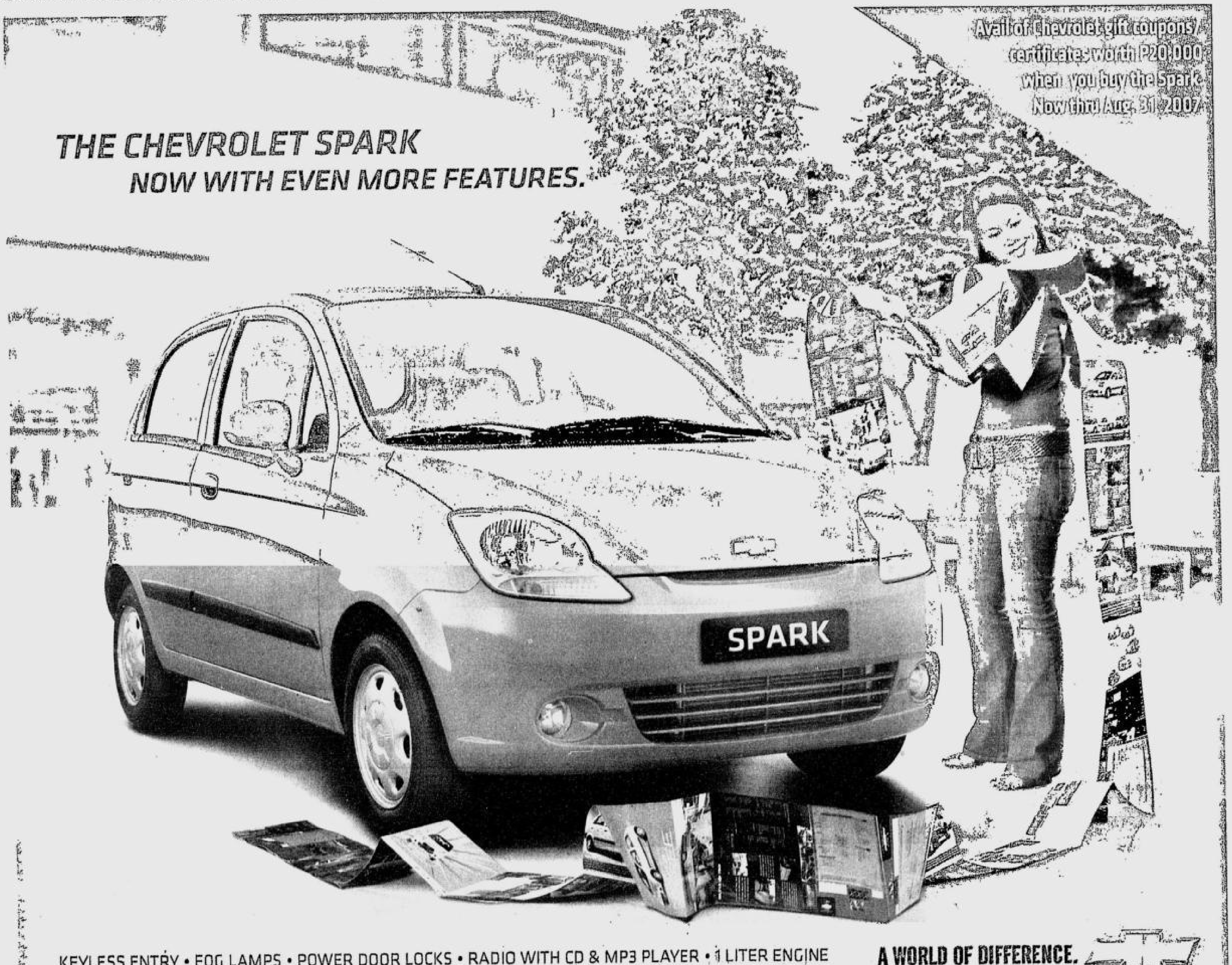
"But continuous rains and typhoons directly destroy crops. They would sweep newly planted seeds and cause vegetables ready for harvest to rot," he said.

Otinguey and the other farmers have reasons to thank tropical storms "Chedeng" and "Dodong" and typhoon "Egay." They abruptly ended the dreaded drought, and brought moderate amount of rains and winds that hardly caused damage to the vegetable farms.

Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist, said the crop damage was negligible, with only Tuba, Bokod, Sablan and Mankayan towns reporting damages.

Buguias, Atok and Bakun and Kibungan, considered the

FARMERS/ B2-2



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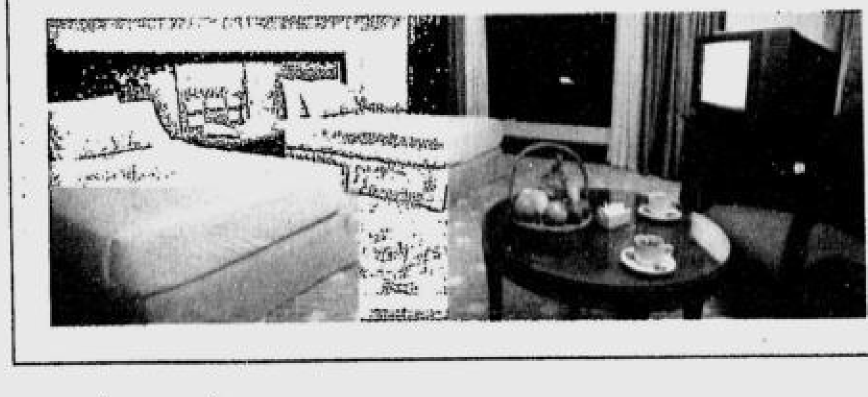

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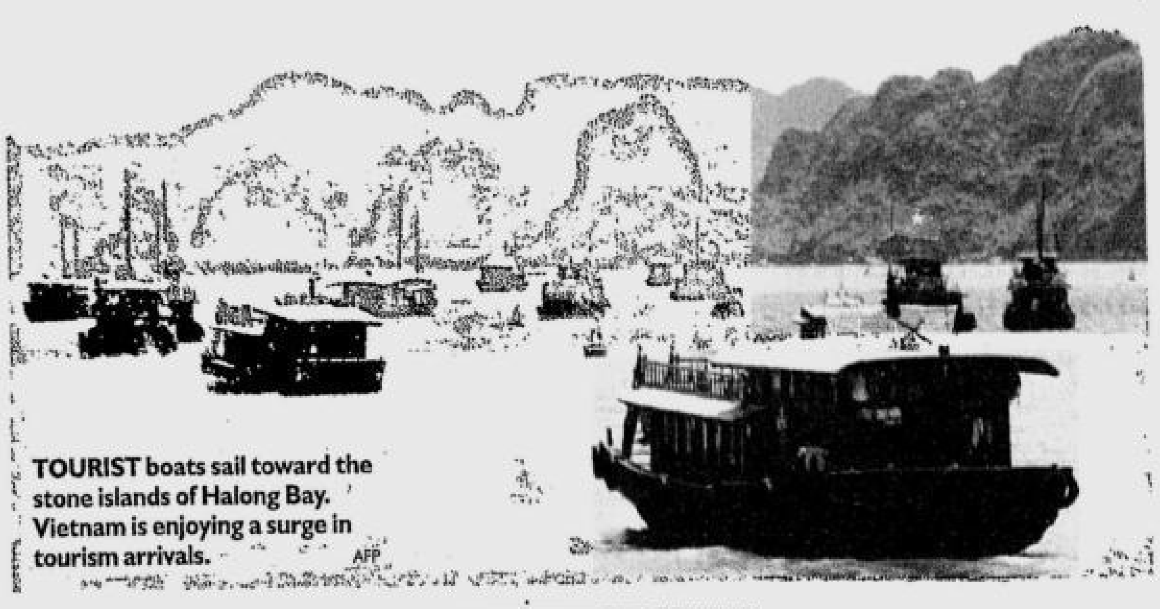
RP can learn from Vietnam

By Willy E. Arcilla
Contributor

OUR COUNTRY CAN LEARN A great deal from Vietnam, particularly in how our neighboring Asean state successfully revitalized its moribund economy starting in 1986.

Since then, Vietnam powered ahead with an average annual growth of 8 percent to earn the accolades of the global business community.

At the same time, it reduced poverty incidence at home, thus achieving the seemingly elusive goal of sustainable economic growth and equitable income distribution.


TOURIST boats sail toward the stone islands of Halong Bay. Vietnam is enjoying a surge in tourism arrivals. AFP

PRESIDENT Arroyo welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung. LYN RILLON

'Doi Moi'

Faced with stagnant growth, a severe food shortage, fiscal deficits, soaring inflation and chronic trade imbalances, the Sixth National Congress of Vietnam's Communist Party, held in December 1986, initiated an overall economic renovation policy.

Popularly known as "Doi Moi", the policy was aimed at making the country self-sufficient in food production and improving the standard of living of the people.

The core of "Doi Moi" was to reduce state intervention in business and open the country to foreign investment.

The government removed subsidies to drive efficiency and liberalized prices. A Foreign Investment Code was adopted, and the banking system reformed.

In the agricultural sector, land reform gave usage rights, tenure and greater autonomy to farmers.

Trade was liberalized in 1991, allowing more public and private firms to participate in external trade as export and import markets were expanded beyond the former Soviet Union and East European nations, Vietnam's traditional trading partners.

As a result of these reforms, exports have grown at a robust and consistent average rate of over 20 percent annually.

For the first half of 2007, Vietnam's exports have further accelerated to 22 percent against the Philippines' 6.6 percent, which has slowed considerably partly due to the strengthening of the peso.

It is noteworthy that despite Vietnam's export surge, and improvements in its balance of trade and balance of payments, the Vietnam currency dong continues to depreciate which manifests the government's support for exporters.

BUSINESS is more brisk than usual in Vietnam. REUTERS

Foreign investments

Since "Doi Moi," Vietnam's foreign direct investments (FDI) have reached an accumulated invested capital of $80 billion, according to Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, who spoke at a Business Forum in the Manila Hotel during his first state visit here.

In 2006 alone, FDI reached $10 billion compared to our $2 billion. This year, Vietnam projects to attract as much as $25 billion compared to our target of $2.5 billion.

From January to May, the Philippines' FDI hit only $900 million, 60 percent below 2006's.

Vietnam's projected FDI for 2007 represents nearly 50 percent of the FDI expected of China, even as China's population is 16 times that of Vietnam's, which is a strong indicator of the potential that foreign investors see and their confidence in Asia's next tiger economy.

This "gold rush" of investments into Vietnam can be attributed to several factors.

In meetings and interviews with foreign businessmen doing business in Ho Chi Minh, University of Asia and the Pacific economist and an organizer for the First Philippine-Vietnam Mission scheduled in Ho Chi Minh City in end-August, Florence Mojica-Sevilla, observed that foreign investors praised the Vietnam government for creating a climate conducive for investments.

It is a climate characterized by political stability, peace and order, an openness to market-oriented reforms, generous fiscal incentives, low corporate tax rates, a competitive cost structure, and a young, well-educated, productive, and highly skilled workforce.

An observer commented, "One of the most apparent differences between the Philippines and Vietnam is that in our country, there continues to be an obsession in politics, celebrities and entertainment, while in Vietnam, everyone simply works hard and fast."

Income distribution

Vietnam's GINI Coefficient, (an economist's measure of income inequality where a value of 1 means only 1 person owns 100 percent of a country's income) is only at 0.40, an admirable feat considering that the country has been independent for only 30 years since defeating the United States in the Vietnam War.

In contrast, the Philippines, which claims to be one of Asia's oldest independent and democratic republics, hovers nearer to 0.50, even higher than some African nations.

At the bilateral Business Forum, Vietnam's Vice Minister of Trade and Industry Nguyen Tan Deng added that as part of "Doi Moi," the government had adopted a pro-poor policy by prioritizing on food production and support for farmers via land reform, training, financing and farm-to-market infrastructure linkages.

Professor Rolando Dy, formerly with the World Bank and now the Dean of Agribusiness in the University of Asia and the Pacific, confirmed that Vietnam has already achieved self-sufficiency in food production.

Today, Vietnam is poised to overtake Thailand as the world's largest exporter of rice.

It also exports a wide variety of agricultural and marine products such as coffee, green tea, black pepper, rubber, cashew nuts, catfish, seabass, and tiger prawns.

Vietnam's per capita income of $700 is expected to reach $1,200 by 2010, representing a compounded annual growth rate of plus 15 percent, whereas the per capita GDP of the Philippines remained virtually unchanged for the past 50 years at around $1,200.

It is admirable for Vietnam to project raising per capita GDP even as it increases its population base to 100 million people while some Philippine government planners seem to blame our country's population for poverty, instead of harnessing their productivity.

Undaunted by China

Many countries including the Philippines appear to have given up on competing with China, the super factory of the world, but Vietnam remained undaunted.

Today, its food processing industry has not only achieved global standards, but has started to successfully compete with China's.

This is true as well in durable consumer goods like footwear and garments.

And now that the US and other markets have been spooked by reports of adulterated Chinese products ranging from canned food and candy, seafood and pet food, toys and children's clothes, tires and bicycles, Vietnam's exporters will stand to benefit as an alternative source, while China remedies its quality control issues.

In the field of high-value electronics, Intel is not only building its $1-billion factory in Vietnam but also its own school to train and recruit Vietnamese to supply its staffing needs.

Business mission

But the Philippines can take advantage of Vietnam's growth.

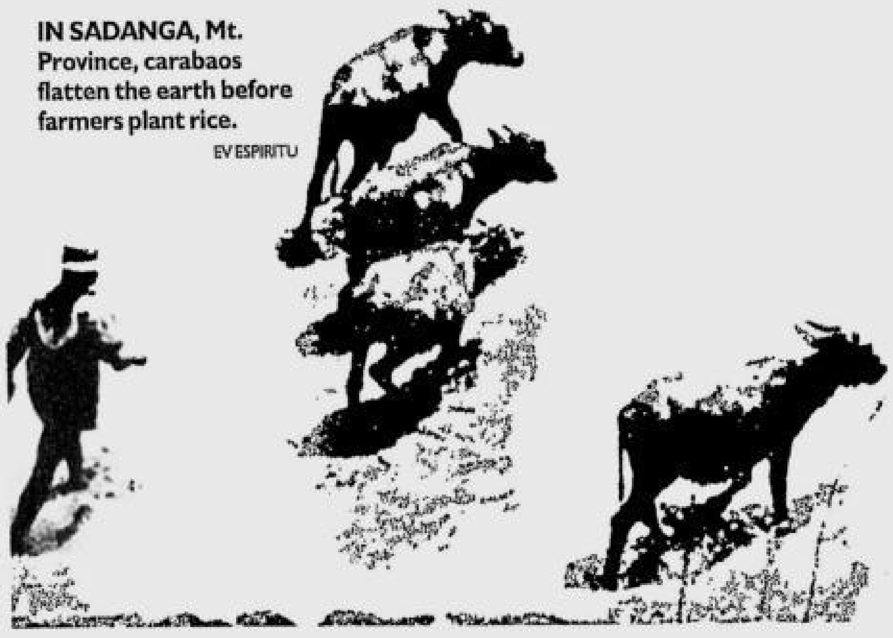
It is for this reason that a Philippine-Vietnam Business Mission will be held in Ho Chi Minh City from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, 2007.

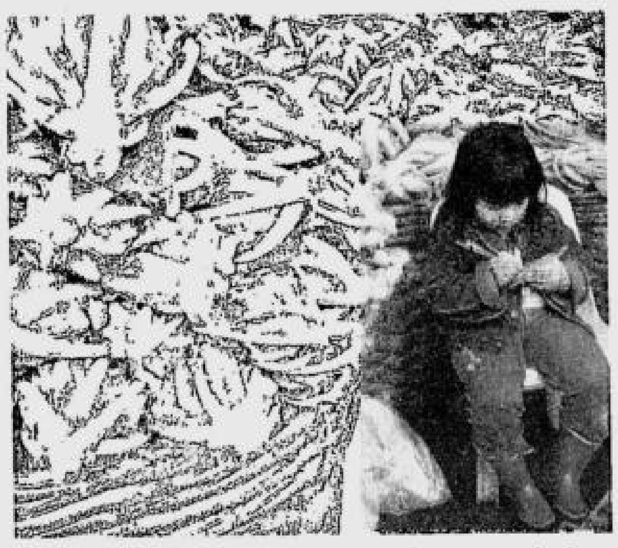
It is being initiated jointly by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, ZMG Signium Ward Howell Inc. and the University of Asia and the Pacific in conjunction with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Vietnam Trade Office in the Philippines.

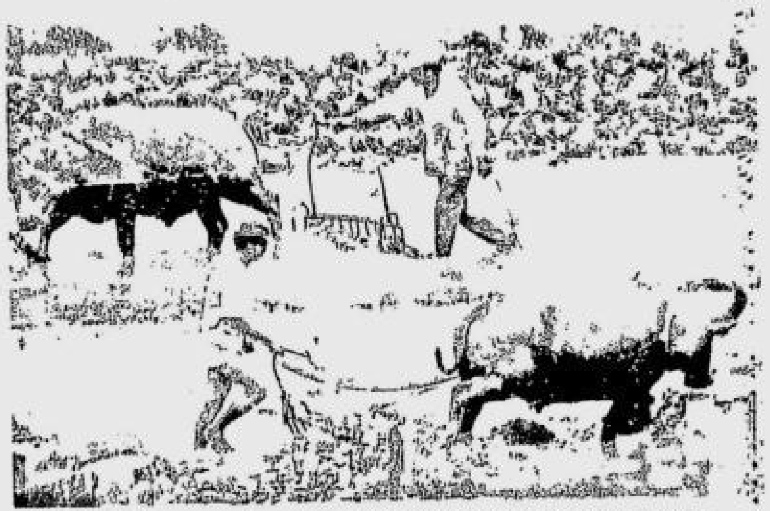
Gigi Zulueta, managing director of ZMG Signium Ward Howell Inc., explained that the objectives of the mission are primarily to: (1) explore opportunities for Philippine companies to set up trade relationships directly with Vietnamese partners in import/export as well as direct and financial investments between the two Asean states; (2) obtain a better understanding of the success of Vietnam's "Doi Moi" that was started in 1986 for possible adaptation in the Philippines; and (3) enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

Clearly, indicators leave no doubt that Vietnam is well-positioned to become Asia's next tiger economy, and it is thus imperative for the Philippines to learn from and participate in Vietnam's success story.

(The author is partner and regional director of leading human capital solutions provider ZMG Signium Ward Howell Inc.)

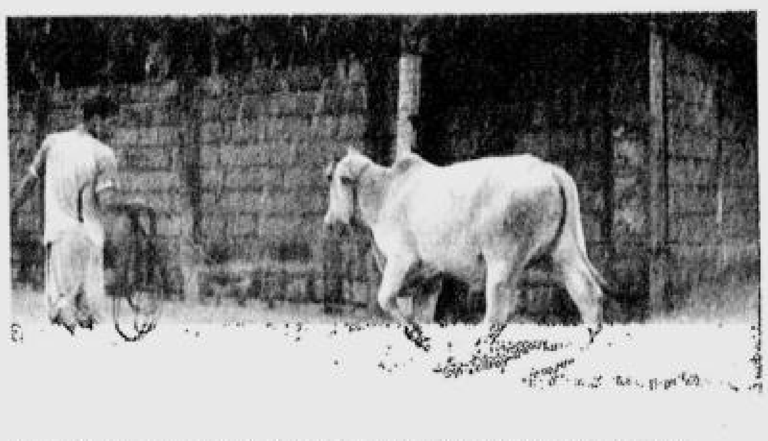

IN SADANGA, Mt. Province, carabaos flatten the earth before farmers plant rice. EV ESPIRITU


RAINS in August allowed farmers to harvest early. A young Ibaloi watches over the harvest at the La Trinidad Trading Post. EV ESPIRITU


CARABAOS, man and machine work tirelessly to start the planting season. EV ESPIRITU

Farmers cope with rains ...

From page B2-1


A MAN takes his cow to safer ground as floodwaters rise in Brgy. Dalongue, Sta Barbara, Pangasinan. RAY ZAMBRANO

heavyweights in vegetable production, have yet to submit damage reports, Bentres said.

Gov. Nestor Fongwan said the drought and this month's continuous rains did not affect vegetable supply at all.

Indeed, some farmers complained their crops were damaged.

"The vegetables are there," said Fongwan.

In Pangasinan, at least P3 million worth of bangus fingerlings swam into the open sea after several fishponds in Binmaley town overflowed due to the continuous rains.

Dalisay Moya, officer in charge of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, said at least 116 hectares of fishponds in seven Binmaley barangays lost some 581,000 of bangus fingerlings.

Binmaley is one of the province's major producers of the famed Pangasinan bangus.

Moya said the rains also destroyed at least P2.22 million worth of rice crops in the towns of Calasiao and Mabini and in Alaminos City.

In Calasiao, 2,329 hectares of rice fields have been damaged by the rains, while 1,777 hectares of demonstration farms planted with hybrid rice have been destroyed in Mabini.

In Alaminos City, 7,013 hectares of rice plants in their vegetative stage have been damaged.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. A farmer uses his "kuliglig" (farm tractor) so he can still plant palay in Brgy. Ventinilla in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. RAY ZAMBRANO

CHILDREN help plant rice seedlings in Candon City, Ilocos Sur. LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

UK experience in risk management, corporate governance

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Celso P. Vivas

I HAVE PREPARED THIS PIECE IN response to the article in Forbes Asia, May 21, 2007 issue about the World Bank 2006 Country Assessment ranking the Philippines 11th out of 12 countries in terms of observing corporate governance principles and practices.

It is my hope also that this article will help encourage proper compliance with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2007 dated Aug. 9, 2007, which requires publicly listed companies to participate in a corporate governance survey.

At the recommendation of 2006 MAP president Evelyn Singson, I was appointed as the Philippine representative to the September 2006 UK Study Mission on Risk Management and Corporate Governance organized by the Asian Productivity Organization based in Tokyo, Japan, which was participated in by representatives from various Asian countries.

I wish to say that the UK-listed companies and institutional governance players spoke highly about the practice of good corporate governance as well as the importance of risk management as a function integral to corporate governance.

To them, sound business principles and effective corporate governance are foundations for business success.

The same statement applies regardless of company size, whether such company is privately owned or publicly listed, or whether such company is in a developing or developed country.

From the materials distributed, like The Black Sun survey, the Hermes and CBC Corporate Governance Principles, Airmic Risk Management Principles, etc., I would like to present the key CG and ERM principles in UK in the following areas which can be considered in the Philippine setting:

- Creating a working board
- Enhancing annual report disclosures
- Formalizing and implementing performance evaluation process
- Keeping pace with Enterprise Risk Management
- Highlighting the role of the finance function in corporate governance

Strategic boards

I fully subscribe to the general statement in UK that an independent, active, working and strategic board is paramount in improving board efficiency and effectiveness.

From the materials received from Shell, GSK, CBC, Hermes and British American Tobacco, the following CG practices are worth considering:

1. At least one-third of directors comprising the board are independent.
2. A senior independent director who is supposed to be the financial expert of the board is appointed. He updates the board on current developments in accounting and financial reporting.
3. New directors are given formal induction upon joining the Board.
4. Individual directors are required to attend at least 24 hours of training a year.

Annual reports

In December 2005, the UK Government abolished the mandatory Operating Financial Review (OFR) for listed companies and instead has just encouraged UK companies to pattern their annual report disclosures after the Business Review (BR) requirements as embodied in the EU Accounts Modernization Directives.

The primary purpose of the BR is to communicate to investors how much value a listed company has created during the year, and why the company believes that it is well placed to continue to create value.

The contents of the BR cover much ground as those in OFR but in a less prescriptive form. Basically, the BR requires reporting companies to cover the following:

- Nonfinancial issues relevant to business development and performance such as those relating to environmental matters and human capital management
- Principal risks, uncertainties
- Balanced and comprehensive business analyses

However, the Black Sun August 2006 research report disclosed that 23 of the analyzed FTSE 100 companies having March 2006 year-ends, are still adjusting to the BR requirements.

One thing is sure though based on the survey, i.e., there is an emerging new reporting regime putting greater emphasis on credibility, completeness and improved communication standards as to structure, style and contents—all meant to show greater transparency in order to preserve or boost company's reputation.

The following are some notable narrative disclosures:

1. Biographies of independent directors showing their academic background, related experiences, number of board seats currently being held in other companies and hours of training completed during the year
2. Specific section dedicated to corporate governance matters, which section could run to few pages in the annual report
3. Details about external advisors as to their background, nature of contract, etc.
4. Details of remuneration of each director, comprising of share option schemes, salaries, bonuses, benefits, or even fees to nonexecutive directors
5. A subsection in the Governance Report, which details the management of business risks, the RM structure and RM process as well as the principal risks facing the business

In brief, many UK companies have already realized the "competitive edge" effect in the market place of embracing best practice reporting.

To these companies, best practice reporting is more of an opportunity than an obligation.

Evaluation processes

Performance evaluations are not confined to company self-assessments.

There are other formal Performance Evaluation frameworks such as Board Effectiveness Assessment, Directors' Self/ Peer Assessment and Board evaluation of CEOs.

Most of the speakers also shared best practices and relevant RM materials, which mostly related to the management of specialized risks.

Given their varied disciplines, they share a common observation that RM is a rapidly developing discipline with many varied views on what risk management entails.

However, one big question not answered during the visit was: How should risk management be integrated in the company's business strategy and process? How can the current fragmented, functionally driven and adhoc RM approaches be converted or integrated into one holistic, process-driven, value-based approach like ERM?

The best material we received, and closest to ERM is a booklet on Risk Management Standards issued by the Airmic.

The booklet contains many ingredients of ERM.

In brief and as depicted in The Black Sun survey, there is no doubt that majority of companies are discussing risks, but with little breath and depth.

And only half provide description of future and unknown risks as prescribed by the Accounting Standards Board.

The survey concluded that it is in this ERM area where there is a vast potential for improvement in reporting, meaning that while 90 percent of surveyed companies are discussing risks in the annual report, the approaches vary in so many ways.

Only 11 percent discussed material risks and over half devoted only one page to RM reporting (unfortunately, nothing was mentioned about ERM reporting in the survey).

Finance function

As the saying goes, accounting is the language of business and financial reporting is the backbone of commercial society.

Annual reports which are used as basis to measure business performance are anchored on audited financial statements.

The areas of accounting and financial reporting, as well as auditing, are the domain of professional accountants.

Without objective and reliable financial statements coupled with necessary narrative disclosures, decision-makers cannot make well-informed decisions.

The finance function therefore, is an indispensable part of a corporate governance system.

It has become a good business practice to have the board of directors approve the appointment and removal, remuneration and terms of employment of chief finance officers, and heads of Internal Audit.

The CFO of a listed company must be a member of a recognized body of professional accountants, or a graduate from a recognized university or equivalent, having at least five years experience in handling financial or corporate affairs of listed public companies, banks, or financial institutions.

Governance code

A sample UK code of corporate governance furnished to us also included a separate section called "Accountability on Financial Reporting," which states that the board should present a balanced and understandable assessment of the company's performance, financial position and business perspective in their company's interim reports, other price sensitive public reports and reports to regulators.

In turn, the code also requires management to provide all directors with management-prepared reports on a monthly basis and which report should also present a balanced and understandable assessment of the company's operating performance, financial position and business prospects.

In conclusion, I would like to say that embracing corporate governance and risk management principles and practices is like a journey. There must be continuing commitment to uphold such principles and practices. What drives the value of an organization is the willingness of the board, the individual directors and senior management to assume the lead role in steering the company in the proper observance of the FAT Principles of corporate governance and effective implementation of the ERM systems and strategies.

(The author is a member of the MAP committee on corporate governance and chair of the MAP best annual report awards committee. He is the vice chair and CEO of the Corporate Governance Institute of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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Globe links Filipino entrepreneurs to micro financing institutions via SMS

Globe brings a new service to the Filipino entrepreneurs to help them as they take the first step in turning their envisioned start-up businesses into reality. Globe has launched the Micro Asenso! Text Facility that will lead small businesses to the micro financing institutions (MFI) nearest to them.

The service is one of the unique offerings Globe has developed with the government in support of the many micro businesses and small and medium enterprises (SME) from all over the country. As the official telecom provider of MFPC for the Micro Asenso! Text Facility, Globe has partnered with Microfinance Program Committee (MFPC), a group of government financing institutions (GFIs) formed to promote financing assistance services in the country.

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched the new service last July by sending an SMS (short messaging service) to 2973 and located the MFI in her hometown, Lubao, Pampanga.

President Arroyo was assisted by Presidential Management Staff Chief and Malacañang's Oversight Officer for Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Sec. Cerge Remonde and MFPC Chair Edgar Generoso. Globe President and CEO Gerry Ablaza and Innove Communications CEO Gil Genio were also present at this big event, which was attended by various MFIs.

The Micro Asenso! Text Facility powered by Globe helps address the Filipino entrepreneur's most common concerns, one of which is how to get funding assistance to build his dream business and where to look for it.

Globe provides the answer as it makes communications technology work for the benefit of the micro businesses and SMEs. The company also ensures easy and convenient connectivity that will help their business grow.

By simply sending a text message, micro businesses will be able to easily and instantly reach more than 3,000 micro financing institutions across the country and help them get a head start on their business. All it takes is a single text message to 2973 to find the nearest MFI in Metro Manila or in the provinces, and get its exact address and contact number.

To find an MFI in Metro Manila, simply type MICRO [space] FIND [space] NAME OF CITY and send to 2973. For micro entrepreneurs in the provinces, search for an MFI by texting MICRO [space] FIND [space] NAME OF PROVINCE [comma] NAME OF TOWN to 2973. This service is exclusive to Globe subscribers at only P2.50 per text message.

To know more about other Globe services for micro businesses and SMEs, call the hotline number 730-2188 or visit www.sme.globe.com.ph.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched the Micro Asenso! Text Facility last July 9. With the President are (from left) Micro Finance Program Committee Chair Edgar Generoso, and Presidential Management Staff Chief and Malacañang's Oversight Officer for Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Sec. Cerge Remonde.

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Also at the launch of the Micro Asenso! Text Facility are (from left) Globe Business Marketing Head, Ailene S. Averion, PCFC Head of Operations Julia Valdez, PCFC Vice President for Controllership, Noel Poso, and Globe Segment Head, Michelle Perlas.

Micro Asenso! Text Facilit
Launch

Globe Business (from left): Marketing Services Manager, Anna T. Cruz; Marketing Services Head, Cielo Javier-Sonza; Marketing Head, Ailene S. Averion; SME Business Group Head, Maridol Ylanan; Loyalty Manager, Ruel Erguiza; Segment Head, Michelle Perlas; and, Alliances and Regional Marketing Head, Chiqui Reyes.

GIL GENIO - "Think big and start small. To help the Filipino entrepreneur take the first small steps toward achieving big dreams, we at Globe Telecom see the Micro Asenso Text Facility as a first small step. But we know that, by linking with our country's microfinance institutions, we have helped build a concrete step of considerable importance.

GERARDO ABLAZA, JR. - "It is with pride that we present our simple answer. The Micro Asenso! Text Facility aids every micro-entrepreneur by pointing him to the nearest microfinance institution in his vicinity. It's a simple step, but to the micro-entrepreneur, a crucial one. If the job of the business owner is to dream big, then perhaps we can help him start working on his dream-beginning with such small, convenient strides.

We at Globe believe that the Filipino entrepreneur deserves all the help he can get. By building a concrete bridge between his dreams and his destiny, we help build a country that means business-through helping its citizens build businesses of their own."

SEC. CERGE REMONDE - "This text service partnership between Globe Telecom and the microfinance program committee of our GFIs and GOCCs adds to the convenience, reach and access of SMS. Indeed, our MSME program today represents the convergence of the latest in communications technology, the innovations in business advocacy, and the time-tested tradition of honest work and industry as the key to success.

I am confident that the legacy targets set by the President, Her Excellency Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, will be met, and perhaps exceeded, as government and private sector continue to work together, in partnership for the common good and greater service to the people."

In photo are (from left) Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerardo Ablaza, Jr., Micro Finance Program Committee Chair Edgar Generoso, and Innove Communications CEO Gil Genio.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tried out the Micro Asenso! Text Facility and located the MFI in her hometown, Lubao, Pampanga.

Micro Asenso! Te
Laun

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor at the launching of the Micro Asenso! Text Facility last July 9. With the President are (from left) Micro Finance Program Committee Chair Edgar Generoso, Presidential Management Staff Chief and Malacañang's Oversight Officer for Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Sec. Cerge Remonde, Globe Telecom President and CEO Gerardo Ablaza, Jr., and Innove Communications CEO Gil Genio.

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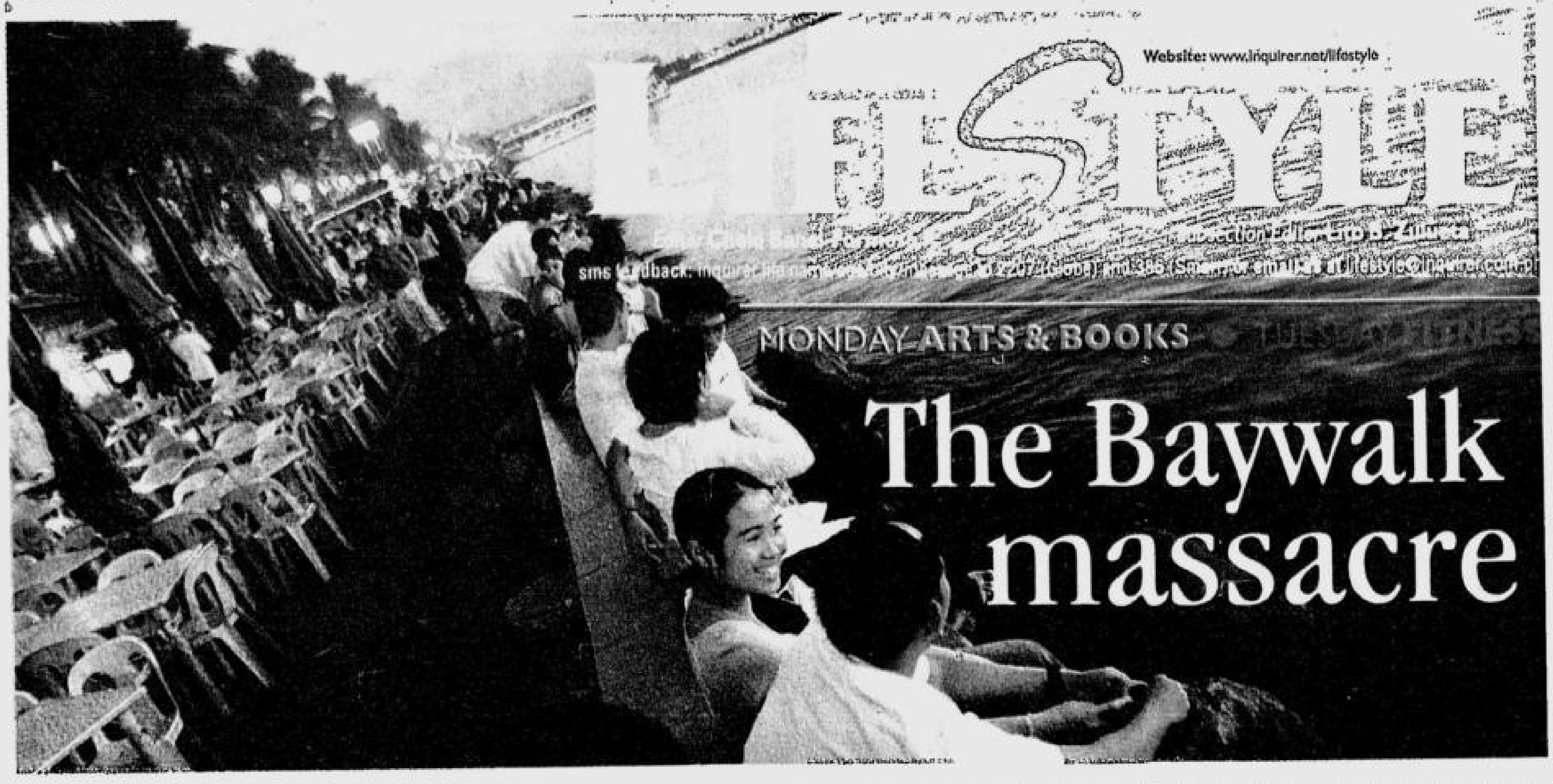

BAYWALK with its restos and other attractions before the new Lim dispensation.
INQUIRER PHOTO

The Baywalk massacre

Musical bands drew people to Baywalk and made it alive and safe. Now Baywalk without the bands is dead. And you could get mugged there

By Pedro Dumancas
Contributor

THE RECENT DECISION BY Mayor Lim to get rid of the Baywalk bands is anti-musician and anti-artist. The INQUIRER says the mayor's reason for banning the bands is that some of the female musicians wore sexy clothes. It took decades for the perception that bands were synonymous with drugs to be corrected. Now a mayor is associating bands with pornography.

That is very absurd. His proposal is even more absurd: Replace these bands with "talented students who play native instruments."

This is a case of artist's persecution. If the mayor is really worried about sexily clad girl musicians, why doesn't he try stopping those gyrating noontime TV dancers?

They're the ones who are lewd, their boobs and bottoms popping out of the TV screen like a formula, a nation's daily dose that insults women, an act happening in broad daylight, their wide coverage reaching living rooms where children can see them, reaching even the farthest tribes where native instruments are played by real natives.

The mayor's thinking that talent means playing native instruments is simplistic and insensitive. Or maybe he was ill-advised by an uninformed mind capable of seeing only the surface? A very, very dangerous thing, indeed.

Respected musicians

The bands or musicians who play along Baywalk are varied and not at all the same as described by Mayor Lim. Some of them, in fact, are serious and respected musicians, and if the mayor had visited Baywalk more often and listened closely to the bands, some do play "native instruments."

Yes, we have observed most of them do covers, the so-called *viajeros*, but for the mayor's information, the *viajeros* are the same Pinoy musicians who perform in hotel lobbies, cruise ships and bars all over the world—they are Filipinos whom we can be proud of.

Like the OFWs, the *viajeros* have contributed in keeping our economy afloat. If they are performing in Baywalk, it is either because they're waiting for the next contract or simply just honing their skills for the next luxury ship to dock.

For the love of music, the *viajeros* are all willing to perform in Baywalk for a pittance compared to what they would be paid performing abroad. For a meal or drinks and a few hundreds, these musicians have opted to keep playing rather than end up getting rusty. And what is a few weeks of sharing the music to the *kapwa* Pinoys, particularly, the *masa?*

Mindless decision

But then, comes this mindless decision by a mayor whose real motivation could actually be to erase anything that is associated with his predecessor.

It reminds us of how one administration after another after Marcos would shun all that had the stamp of Imelda on them even if they were hospitals and cultural centers. It's ugly politics that destroys this nation. Ditto with Baywalk.

What the mayor could have done or could still do is just get rid of the excesses of some business establishments and retain the good stuff, including the *tugtugan*.

As for the students who could play native instruments, we think it is better for them to

THE BAYWALK/ C2

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A blast from Tita King

The 88-year-old National Artist has just finished an opera

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

LUCRESIA Kasilag
CHITO VECINA

NATIONAL ARTIST Lucresia R. Kasilag turns 89 on Aug. 31. She is completely blind and barely able to speak, and yet, with an assist from close friend Fides Cuyugan Asensio, the opera star, Tita King (as she is known to all and sundry) has just composed a new work.

This is the music for an opera, "Why Flowers Bloom in May," with libretto in English and lyrics in Tagalog by Asensio. The work is based on a legend retold by Johnny C. Young.

It tells of the Sun King (King Rayo) and his love for the beautiful earth girl, Mara, who tends to her flowers in the same way as the Little Prince in the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry tale ("Le Petit Prince").

When the rays of the sun prove too much for Mara, Orb the Moon, the Sun God's sister, revives her. They live an idyllic life in the constellation. But when her flowers on earth are threatened by environmental abuse, Mara, aided by her lover, returns to earth so the flowers can bloom again in May, the month of flowers in the Philippines.

Chances are this opera will not be performed until early next year. Expected to play the role of the Sun King is tenor Nazer Salcedo, with Ina Feleo (Cinemalaya Best Actress) as Mara, young Nicole Laurel Asensio as the Moon, and Prima Ballerina Lisa Macuja as the Dancer-Narrator.

Moving drama

How the music came to be composed is a moving drama in itself. Kasilag and Asensio have ties that go back eons ago to the Philippine Women's University Conservatory (now School) of Music, founded by Felicing Tirona, a noted singer who once performed in Milan. (The PWU School of Music, now headed by Dean Harold Galong, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.)

FIDES Cuyugan-Asensio
INQUIRER PHOTO

"Felicing encouraged Tita King, then a piano major, and saw her potential as a composer," recalls the diva. "There were no women composers at the time. My relationship with Tita King then was as a very scared student. She was our dean, and formidable, looking at me, at us, over her spectacles, stern as could be."

She did not discover the funny and witty side of the composer until "I became her song guinea pig, as she experimented with a lot of styles. From her singer I became her colleague when I wrote a theater piece for her at PWU."

When Tita King was confined to her wheelchair, they would still go out to her favorite restaurants and order her favorite putanesca (pasta), and the singer-librettist became the composer's "*chismis barkada*" (gossipmate).

Finally came the time when Tita King couldn't see and couldn't go out anymore, and she was no longer seen at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. But, says Asensio, "we were still *chismismates* and I would go to her home, attended by her *yaya* [nanny] Juliet, and bring her favorite foods. And now I'm back to being all of the above, but with a difference."

The difference was that Asensio wanted Tita King to compose the music (it would be their third collaboration) for her new opera.

And so, earlier this year, they buckled down to work, with the National Artist dictating (whispering) each note to the librettist-lyricist. When Asensio got the notes right, Tita King would clap her hands. But when the notes were wrong, she would playfully threaten to sue!

So how does the new work sound?

"It's like a chant, an ethnic chant," says Asensio. "It's very Kasilag, very Asian, very modal, as the setting is pre-Spanish. And I rejoice, seeing her wit and talent once more, showing how the mind can overcome the ravages of an aging body and senses."

'Disney's Cinderella' to benefit cancer ward

TRISHA P. BORROMEO'S Legacy Association Inc. will present "Disney's Cinderella" as mounted by the Repertory Philippines on Aug. 25, 4:30 p.m. at Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makati.

The presentation will benefit the UP-PGH Cancer Institute Pediatric Ward.

With a beautiful score, including "A Dream Is Wish Your Heart Makes" and the classic "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo," the musical has been much acclaimed and enjoyed by audiences.

Cris Villonco is Cinderella, Niccolo Manahan is the Prince, while Pinky Marquez plays the Stepmother, and Crisel Consunji and Cara Barredo are the Stepsisters.

For tickets, call or text 0917-8554505.

"Disney's Cinderella"

Kammerchor Manila holds Hong Kong tour

KAMMERCHOR MANILA will have a major concert at St. John's Cathedral in Central Hong Kong.

The group is scheduled to pay a courtesy visit at the Philippine Consulate Office in Hong Kong and will hold special concerts for the Mission for Migrant Workers, different Filipino organizations, as well as the group's foster families.

Its Hong Kong tour is made possible through the help of Fr. Andrew Chan, dean of the St. John's Cathedral; Fr. Dwight de la Torre, Filipino chaplain of St. John's Cathedral; Fr. Emil Lim of the Filipino Catholic Diocesan Pastoral Center in Hong Kong; and Daisy Mandap, editor in chief of the Sun, the Hong Kong Filipino newspaper.

In preparation for its Hong Kong concert, the choir has been presenting concerts in different parishes. It will perform at the Edsa Shrine on Aug. 22 (free admission); and hold a farewell concert at the UST Museum on Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.

Kammerchoir Manila was organized by University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music professor Fidel G. Calalang and was initially composed of alumni of the UST Singers (aka UST Action Singers), which Calalang conducts. Its musical artistry and versatility owe to its diverse repertoire, ranging from classical to modern, Negro spirituals, sacred and praise songs, ethnic and Filipino songs, and international popular songs.

The Baywalk massacre

From page C1

concentrate on their studies and leave the Baywalk night life to the *viajeros* and maybe occasionally, on special events, musicians the likes of Grace Nono, Joey Ayala, Pinikpikan, Lakbay Lahi, Makiling Ensemble, Shalam, Talahib, Sruvaleh, Kadangyan.

People didn't stroll along the Baywalk at night in the past because most likely they would get mugged. Since it became well lighted and establishments started incorporating live music into their operations, Baywalk became fun and had never been safer.

Where in the world would you see live bands playing every 50 meters? Metro Manilans welcomed it. Any visitor from the province loved it. Foreigners loved it.

People enjoyed listening to the bands that in turn connected well with the people. We saw families, *barkadas*, lovers, and yes, tourists. We saw musicians spilling over, which attests to the natural musicality of the Pinoys and which explains the Pinoy's growing world domination of the band scene in which the *viajeros* are paving the way.

And what does Mayor Lim see? He sees only sexy bodies. Could it be that Manila's Dirty Harry is the one with the dirty mind?

On the road with RP king and queen of piano concertos

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

LAST MONDAY IN Escaler Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University, the Romantic Piano Concerto Journey (RPCJ) of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes wrapped up its 273rd concert in seven years, marked by a standing ovation.

In the audience were writer Gregorio Brillantes and National Artist for Literature Bien Lumbera, who were visibly moved by the performance.

This year's tour opened with a performance and master class at University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, followed by a series of performances in several schools, notably the Philippine High School for the Arts (now celebrating its 30th year).

The pianists played to all audiences in all sorts of venues and entertained all kinds of questions, from the profound to the amusing, such as: Why do concertos have to be in three movements? Why couldn't they clap in between?

"Of course, nobody can stop you from clapping if you are enjoying what you are hearing, but there are times when artists are distracted when the applause comes in the middle of the piece," said Professor Reyes.

There was no airconditioning in the gymnasium of Central Adventist Academy in Murcia, Negros Occidental, where its president waxed ecstatic over the duo's performance of Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Paganini and Piano Concerto No. 2.

"Your concert brought us straight to heaven," said the school head.

When we stepped outside the gymnasium on a clear night with a full moon, we realized this Negros town was in between a majestic mountain and the stars, a perfect setting to hum the melody of Rachmaninoff's last movement turned by imaginative songwriters into "Full Moon and Empty Arms."

We drove straight to Silay City, where the pianists did two concerts at St. Theresita Academy. After the performance, the students asked why it was important to feel what they played during a performance.

"Every music has something to communicate, and if performers don't project emotion, you can be sure the music will not mean anything to the listeners," said Reyes; who demonstrated how a mechanical-playing instrument sounded like.

Silay is the hometown of the first and last Filipino mezzo who made a career in Europe—Conchita Gaston.

During the open forum, I asked the Silaynons the state of music in the city known in the past as Negros's Little Paris.

"Zero," said Maguet Gaston Locsin.

But not quite. There is an active and widely acclaimed Silay Rondalla ensemble duly supported by the city government.

Good breeding

The Silay lifestyle is the epitome of fine taste and good breeding, and I see it in the home of Tony and Chona Montinola who hosted a lovely dinner after the Silay concerts.

Seated on well-designed wooden chair, listening to Reyes rehearse his Alkan pieces in the house of Buddy and Terry Montinola (their two children below 10 watched the full concerts of Alexandro Tomescu and Sergey Kuznetsov in Bacolod City) with a full view of a wide garden and with horses' stable at the back, I felt like I was on a scene straight from "Out of Africa."

At St. Scholastica's Academy in Bacolod, piano teachers asked about piano exercise books and piano syllabus and the ideal practice hours for students and professionals.

In Dumaguete City's St. Paul University, what sounded like century-old baby grand and upright pianos greeted the pianists, who had to exert extramuscular effort to make the pianos sound like one—with three concerts in two days!

In the first concert, two notes disappeared from the baby grand. Another key fell silent on the upright and the tuner had to fix something before a performance. In the powerful chords of the Rachmaninoff finale, the poor pianos started to sound like a cross between a guitar and a harpsichord.

But in the end, the audience reception was great. (This should prod school authorities to invest in good musical instruments.)

It felt like a CCP concert when the tour moved on to Silliman University, with its brand-new piano and a reconditioned one as well as a perfect hall like Henry Luce Auditorium.

Considering the grueling tour, Reyes and Santamaria should be crowned RP's King and Queen of Piano Concertos.

What most people don't know is that they don't earn anything from their missionary work. It is a labor of love in the last seven years—a total of 273 concerts with lectures and open forum for both rich and poor as well as for beginners and seasoned music lovers.

Ingrid Sala Santamaria can break social barriers and bring classical music to all social strata.

PIANISTS Ingrid Sala Santamaria with Reynaldo Reyes

NOEL Azcona

She's a regal sight in her Pitoy Moreno ternos. But in the provinces, she rides tricycles to the concerto venues.

When I first saw her ride one in Dumaguete, I told a visiting British conductor then leading the Cebu Youth Orchestra, "I just saw Ingrid take a tricycle on the way to the concert venue and she still looked regal."

The conductor said with humor: "She must have looked like a queen on top of a camel."

Reyes teaches and performs abroad but always finds time to go back to the Philippines at least once a year for this concerto tour. Financially, it is a thankless job for both artists and the organizers, but the pianists still threaten to perform *gratis et amore* till age 90.

Deadline extended

The National Music Competition for Young Artists has announced that the deadline for submission of applications for Piano, Voice, Traditional Music Ensemble, High School Rondalla And Junior Ballet has been extended to Aug. 27. Call 5515091 for details or visit the NAMCYA website at www.namcya.org.ph

Azcona recital reset

The Great Performance Series scheduled Aug. 18 has been reset Aug. 25.

The special recital will feature distinguished baritone Noel Azcona along with guest soprano Rachelle Gerodias and pianist Mary Anne Espina as collaborating artist.

The series is sponsored by the Philippine American Life Insurance Company on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

The baritone will also be heard in Bacolod on Sept. 7, 7 p.m., at the L'Fisher Hotel Ballroom, with soprano Nenen Espina.

The concert is for the benefit of the Negros Cultural Foundation, Inc.

For inquiries on the Manila and Bacolod concerts, call (02) 900-7023, (02) 497-2971 or cell 0906-5104270.

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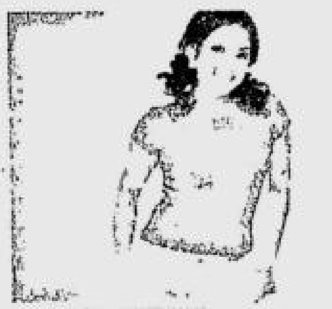

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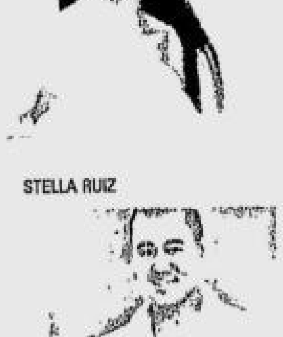

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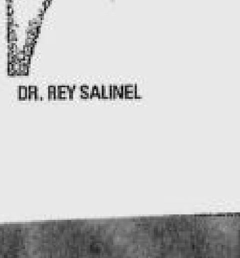

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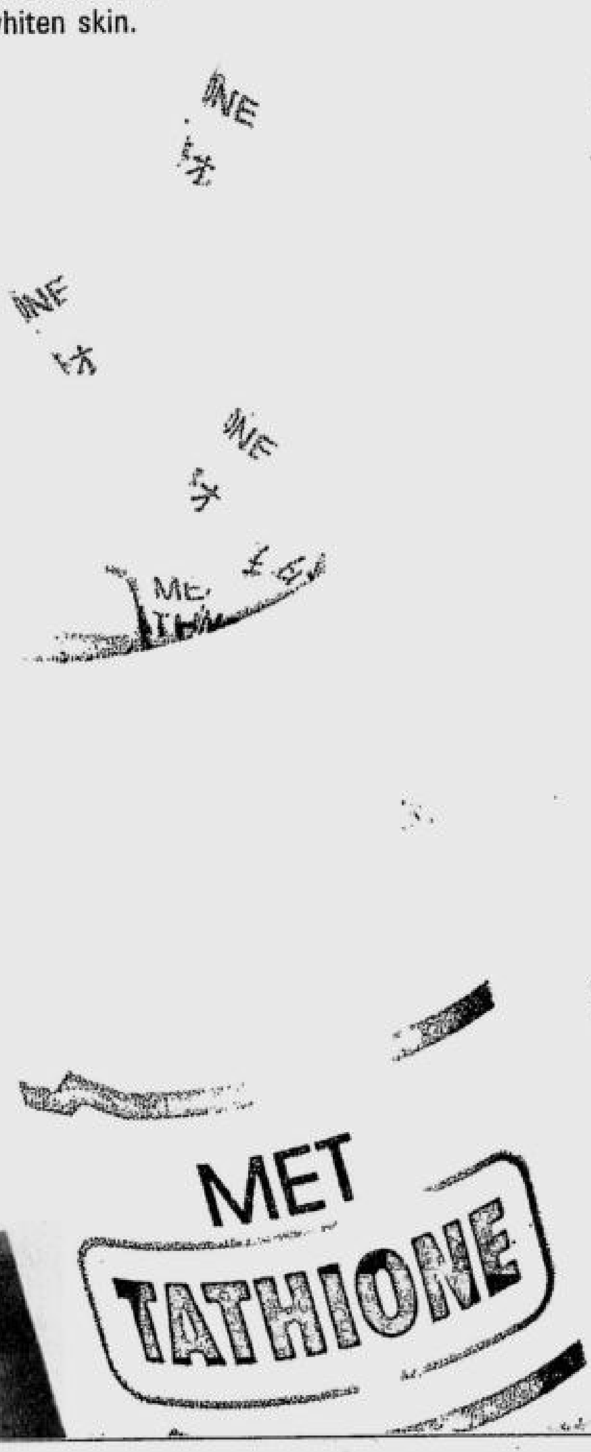

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MOONRISE FILMFEST

Revealing secrets under the stones

By Shirley O. Lua
Contributor

A docu on the Guimaras oil spill, 'Syokoy' shows how humanity disintegrates along with the despoliation of nature

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A DOCUMENTARY film lies not in its choice of a subject matter, or in its successful gathering or recording of facts. For, as writers and artists have always known (and despaired), everything that needs to be told has been told.

Therefore, the difference is in the ability of art to approach a familiar story in a new mode, or a general theme in an original manner.

The 2007 Moonrise Film Festival, organized by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE), called for documentary films on environmental issues and cultural concerns. The challenge for filmmakers then was to confront an issue, specific but not necessarily unique, and deliver it in such a way that it would create an impact on the audience.

One of those who took up the challenge was "Syokoy," directed by Ray Defante Gibraltar, scripted by John Iremil Teodoro, and photographed by Oscar M. Nava.

Dramatic hook

The film's beginning deploys an apparently common device: a survey. It poses the questions: What is a *syokoy*? Do you believe in *syokoy*?

The first few minutes seem to be a survey of our cultural knowledge of that odd term, buy as the film progresses the audience realizes that this is a dramatic hook, and the *syokoy* is a figurative representation for something more serious and profound.

The film also uses a recognizable yet reliably effective device: the portrait of the ordinary. The idyllic scenery of Guimaras island is skillfully captured, particularly that of a setting sun, framed by the rugged walls of a cliff.

The images of the ordinary soon yield to those of the horror. To echo a motif from the film, what secrets lie underneath the smooth white stones?

The film's strength lies in its complexity and intensity. It deftly intertwines three narrative threads: a quest to define a mythical creature; a journey to perform an artistic ritual; and an operation to save the island. The result is a fascinating unfolding of a message that could not fail to produce on impact—emotional and intellectual—on the audience.

The film focuses on the aftermath of the accident of the MT Solar I tanker on Aug. 11, 2006. However, the tragedy is not in the sinking of a ship, in the loss of million-dollar worth of oil, but in what comes after—the poisoning of the sea, the devastation of nature. And an even greater tragedy follows: the disintegration of humanity.

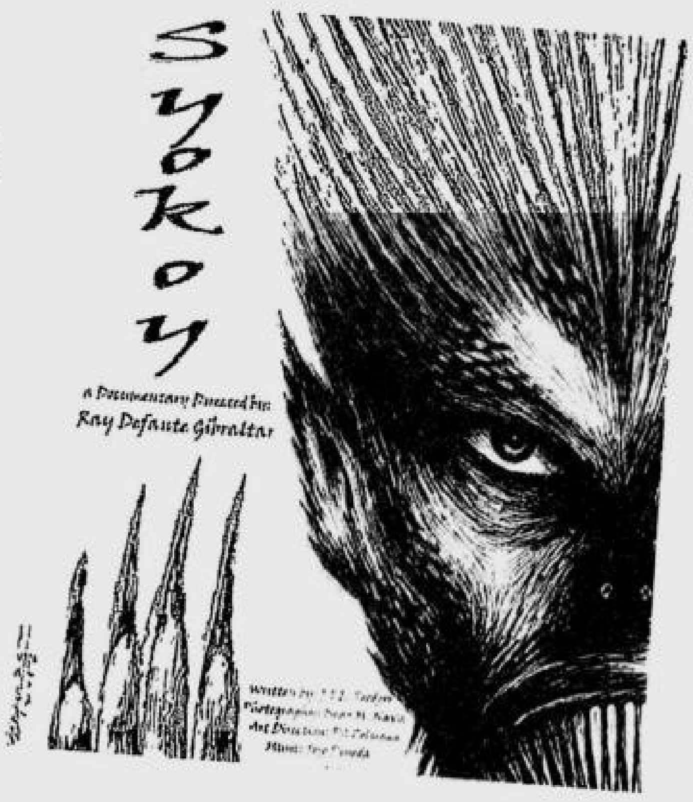
Horrifying images

The film allows the images and characters to tell the story, without any disembodied voice-over interjecting unnecessary comments.

This is a wise move, for the film is able to provide moments of surprises and shock as the images unfurl depicting the consequences: foul odor, blackened rocks and roots, bluish-shell crabs, murky waters, tons of plastic bags, moored boats, empty nets, children wearing masks, sores on skin, makeshift crucifixes, fearful faces, broken coughs, subdued cries.

As one character says, "We lost the sense of continuity that we had."

The film also inserts little ironies, making the tragedy even more excruciating: the pitiful efforts to scrub off the greasy clumps from the rocks; the 300-peso payment given to those who clean up the mess; a drum of pure bunker oil kept in the house to protect pillars from termites; a boat spraying the waters and turning the sea red.



The rhythmic pace of the visuals is that of heartbeat, steady but building up, and allowing moments to slow down, for the characters to grieve, for the audience to feel and be moved.

Hope and justice

The ending springs glimpses of hope, and calls for justice. A butterfly flutters in the wind as the artist (P. G. Zoluaga) completes his fish-pen ritual of respect to the spirits of the sea. A tiny mangrove sprouting green leaves receives a Buddhist gift from another artist (Kidlat Tahimik).

And an old seer warns that the half-human, half-fish creature with sharp teeth and nails will strike back to protect what it holds precious.

The recuperation of the sea-creature myth is the filmmaker's personal mission to create and offer his own art to the world, to transcend a local dilemma into a global dimension. This is the artist's way to heal what has been harmed, to underscore the wrong so that right can be done.

The Moonrise Film Festival runs until Aug. 21 at Robinson's Galleria.

Musika Ibarang presents pianist Victor Santiago Asuncion

ASUNCION

MUSIKA IBARANG, IN COOPERATION with the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), GSIS Museum, PHSA Parent-Teacher-Staff Council, Inc., will feature US-based Filipino pianist Victor Santiago Asuncion in a homecoming concert on Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m., at the GSIS Museum Lower Gallery, CCP Complex (between the Philippine Senate and the Manila Film Center).

Asuncion's program includes Berg's Sonata Opus 1; Ravel's "Gaspard de la nuit"; and Liszt's Sonata in B Minor.

Recognized as a pianist of innate musical sensitivity and superb technique, Asuncion received his Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Maryland; Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music; Bachelor of Music from the Harid Conservatory of Music/Lynn University. An alumnus of PHSA, Asuncion debuted with the Manila Chamber Orchestra at age 18.

Memphis pedagogue

Now head of the Piano department at University of Memphis, Asuncion recently conducted master classes recently at the PHSA National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling; and at St. Paul University Manila College of Music and the Performing Arts.

The concert is free to the public, but donations will be much appreciated. Donations will fund Musika Ibarang (PHSA Music Alumni Association) and PHSA Student Projects.

Contact 0926-7374272 or Katherine Asis at 0920-9102920.

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EUGENIA Duran Apostol delivering her speech on her feet. Beside her is her nephew, Ricardo Ma. D. Nolasco,commissioner of the Komisyon ng Wika. CENIE MALABANAN

Eugenia Duran Apostol wows Mindanao

The INQUIRER founder endears herself to Mindanao students and academics with her no-fuss, maternal and effective public speaking style

By Christine F. Godinez-Ortega
Contributor

EUGENIA DURAN APOSTOL, founding chair of the Foundation of Worldwide People Power, came to the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) to walk her talk, literally, on the crisis of education, and to challenge the MSU-IIT in the "daunting task" it now faces "to sustain an academic environment that spurs social development."

Apostol walked about while delivering her speech to the 4,000 student-faculty-staff, guests and university officials led by MSU president Dr. Ricardo Fernandez de Leon and MSU-IIT chancellor Marcelo P. Salazar during the MSU-IIT 39th Charter Day celebration recently. The sight was the most energizing image I had ever seen in my 30 years as an academic and administrator.

Admittedly, the MSU-IIT gym is not the perfect place for a speaker to deliver a speech. Then UP Mindanao Chancellor Ricardo de Ungria, last year's Charter Day speaker, had to stop in the midst of his speech a few times because the students in the bleachers were noisy. We learned later that they could not hear a word of his speech.

This was what Duran Apostol, or Tita Eggie for me, wanted to solve as she surveyed the audience, majority of them young people, before her turn to speak came.

APOSTOL with MSU-IIT chancellor Marcelo P. Salazar (left) and MSU president Dr. Ricardo de Leon (middle) CHECHE ADLAWAN

Our eyes turned as wide-eyed as Tita Eggie's when she didn't go up the stage and when she left the lectern hastily set up on the gym floor to start walking, holding her written speech on one hand and a wireless microphone on the other.

Always an effective communicator and a seasoned editor, she cut out portions of her speech, interacting with the audience, stopping now and then on the gym floor, waiting for the students' responses from the bleachers, with her nephew, Dr. Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, UP Diliman linguistics professor and chief commissioner of the Komisyon Ng Wika, at her side.

Not many speakers of the 39-year-old MSU-IIT had made a strong impact on their audiences as Tita Eggie. Up to now, students are still talking about her style of delivery and her message of a better life through education.

Tita Eggie's voice during the Charter Day program was strong and determined, but she had worried earlier about how and what she would say because she said she did not usually accept speaking engagements, declaring, "I'm not a good speaker."

Tita Eggie's lack of affectation was surprising. She said what she felt and had carried only a coat and a bag for her trip to Iligan.

Concern for others

Most of all, her concern for others and her appreciation of the little things provided by her hosts shone through. I learned further she preferred seafood, her roots are in Sorsogon, like my maternal grandfather, but otherwise, she has no dietary restrictions.

"Eat a little anything," she said. Later in the evening, she showed us how a glass of wine would cap her day.

One of the things Tita Eggie loves, we found out, too, are plants. She "threatened" to take some of the orchids under cover of darkness at the Iligan hotel where she and Ricky stayed, if she failed to buy plants from local stores. The gift of *gumamela* cuttings from the garden of the Macaraeg-Macapagal House facilitated by caretaker Gloria Villaraza simply made her happy.

On hindsight, we now see that events often converge at certain moments. As Political Science professor Darwin Manubag and AB English majors Philip Mamugay and Rei Lena Yasmin Maranda, and I drove on the highway to Iligan from the Cagayan de Oro airport that morning with Tita Eggie and Ricky, we met President Macapagal-Arroyo's convoy back from, we heard, Ozamiz City.

Certainly, Tita Eggie's curiosity as a journalist *(See related story "An inspiration to young writers")*, her passion for truth, justice, freedom have been the essence of her life as she continues to deconstruct the country's social and educational systems, education being a great leveler and a liberating influence on humanity. It is this latter passion these days that is making her busy and, it seems, youthful as ever.

An inspiration to young writers

By Fatimah P. Imam
Contributor

> I grew up reading the INQUIRER and I am inspired by its founder's example of always putting value on telling the truth

ONE DAY WHEN I was barely three, according to my father, I saw our neighbor reading a newspaper in the yard, her legs crossed, the paper spread wide open before her. The next day, dad said he found me holding a copy of the day's paper upside-down, reciting stuff that I made up and imitating what I had seen the day before.

I grew up reading the Philippine Daily Inquirer. I have fond memories of reading the comic relief page as a child, following God knows how many comic titles as they came and went (Katrina, Simo, Bliss), with some still running to date (Pugad Baboy has always made me laugh ever since I can remember). In school I always had a knack for journalism: I wrote my first feature piece in grade four. I grabbed every opportunity to write in the school paper, and now that I'm in college, I run around wearing my press ID.

When the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) celebrated its Charter Day, I saw for the first time the woman from whose paper's big-lettered ads and obituaries I learned how to read at five, and from reading whose paper I was able to recognize the significant role of journalism. That afternoon, I met Eugenia Duran Apostol in the flesh.

Getting to sit down and chat with someone whom you know has undauntedly stood up to presidents with her publications isn't exactly a daily thing, no pun intended. When I got to interview Ms Apostol, she was gracious, good-natured, and remarkably inquisitive, making a joking comment on the length of this year's Charter Day theme, "Commitment to Excellence Through Teamwork Anchored on Integrity and Teamwork."

When asked about how the theme clashed with the adversarial attitude that journalists have to take, Ms Apostol replied matter-of-factly, "So long as there's integrity, accountability, you cannot possibly make a mistake in being adversarial ... Are you saying you'd rather have this than the other one?" She immediately proved her point as I could only answer that I would of course opt for integrity.

Formidable reputation

Ms Apostol made a reputation as a person who put value in telling the truth. "Just sometimes it's more popular for people to be, to take on an adversarial attitude," she reflected. "But in journalism you have to be also balanced, and you have to balance it with accountability and integrity." There was just no need to convince me that this was the person behind the paper with the infamous slogan, "Balanced News, Fearless Views."

"I studied in the University of Santo Tomas where there are no Muslims," she revealed, her voice taking on a note of curiosity. "This is my first time [in a community with a number of Muslims] so it must be quite interesting to know how ... How would you handle it if you have problems about a Muslim-Christian [issue]?"

As I realized that the tables were turned and I was now the one being asked questions, I was reminded that I was talking to a journalist, by nature eager for information. I proudly related my Muslim-Christian heritage, my father being a Maranao and my mother a Boholana.

From experience I related how a harmonious relationship among people with different backgrounds could NOT work, and why educational institutions are very important in contributing to the awareness of all groups of people. "It's not as bad as they think," I punctuated my answer, referring to the common misconception about Mindanao as a place torn to shreds by war.

Making history again

Ms Apostol wanted to face her audience informed the next day, and face them she did. She made history in the institute as she refused to speak onstage or before a lectern, walking around and giving the crowd recognition—students, alumni, and faculty alike.

The MSU-IIT population, awed by this moving gesture, responded to Ms Apostol with sincerity and energy. She completely captivated the Charter Day audience and for a good reason, being a woman with always important things to say.

From her days in the print business, Ms Apostol is now on a more crucial campaign of going to the roots that make the people of a country—education. As founder of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, an organization dedicated to the development of the quality of instruction and facilities in public schools all over the country, she left our school a challenge: to take on the role of becoming teaching resources and share academic expertise to public schools in our community.

Eugenia Duran-Apostol may yet again create sparks that would set fire to a different kind of revolution; a revolution that would create change not just in the country, but more importantly in the people. I, for one, will continue to read and write, with a bigger hope in my heart for the future of the country and my fellow Filipinos.

The author is a third year AB English Student at MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, Iligan City.

Look and feel healthy

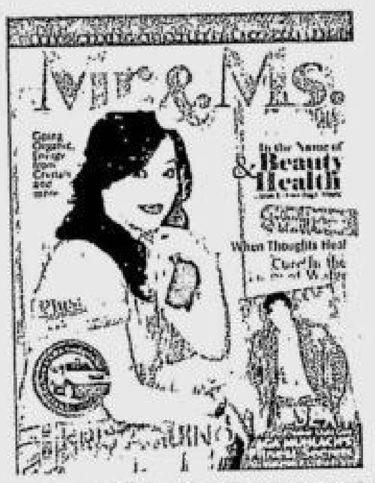
MR & MS, THE SUPER-monthly of the Body, Mind, and Spirit, offers beauty tips and health advice this August. Kris Aquino is on the cover with Aga Muhlach as inset.

Former health secretary Jaime Galvez Tan explains how the most common beauty habits can be dangerous to your health. He advises against wearing high heels, too much intake of vitamin E and more. He also reveals the "true fountain of youth."

Then five stunning members of the NBA Dallas Mavericks dancers talk about body care. The belles of the basketball pass the lowdown on how to keep tresses shiny and how to keep one's body in tiptop shape. Matching the fitness of these ladies from Texas is the new Aga Muhlach—trim, sexy, and looking more than a decade younger. Read how he was able to regain the body he used to have 15 years ago. He gives out practical weight-loss solutions and highlights the most important ingredient for trimming down—discipline.

In the article "Slim Down With Food," Mr & Ms trains the spotlight on the humble yogurt. Apparently this dairy product has a lot of health benefits.

Mara Pardo de Tavera, well-known organic food activist and Slow Food Convivium member, talks about the status of the organic agriculture industry and why everyone should patronize its produce. She explains why organic produce is more expensive than conventional ones. But she also does the math to prove that organic may be cheaper in the long run.



Meanwhile, three ways for healing are available for those who need it. For those in need of a more immediate healing, Crysta Imperial Rara tells of a hydrotherapy center in Quezon City. Apart from relaxation, the center harnesses the healing properties of water, which has long been recognized, even by ancient civilizations.

Chat Alejandro shows the health benefits of crystals and gems. Find out how you can maximize the power of precious stones for your own good.

For more serious illnesses, Jaime Licauco suggests healing the mind first. He shares the arguments of Deepak Chopra about the current trends in medical science that do not acknowledge the power of the mind in healing illnesses like cancer. The mind, consciousness, and the act of caring could be the secrets to recovery, Licauco argues.

The special pull-out supplement on franchising features Potato Corner's Jose Magsaysay on the cover. He shares his success story, as Francorp's Manuel Siggaoat gives advice for aspiring franchisees.

Mr. & Ms. Magazine is available nationwide.

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2 new anthologies from the UP Press

THE UP PRESS RECENTLY released a two-volume collection of stories on childhood by some of the best fictionists in English belonging to several generations.

The first volume of "Children's Hour: Stories on Childhood" is edited by Gémino H. Abad; and the second volume is edited by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo. Abad's book consists of 14 stories, by National Artist NVM Gonzalez, Kerima Polotan, Juan Tuvera, Tita Lacambra-Ayala, Nita Umali-Berthelsen, Linda Ty-Casper, Gregorio Brillantes, Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Alfred A. Yuson, Antonio Enriquez, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Erwin Castillo, Jose Y. Dalisay, Jr. and Charlson Ong.

Hidalgo's book comprises 16 stories written by a younger generation of writers: Vicente Garcia Groyon, R. Kwan Laurel, Connie Jan Maraan, Katrina Tuvera, Netisa Guevara, Melissa Salva, Tara FT Sering, Celeste Flores-Coscolluela, Paolo Manalo, Luis Katigbak, April T. Yap, and Myrza C. Sison.

The books are part of the UP Jubilee Student Edition, which is among the UP Press' contributions to the celebration of the UP Centennial, a series begun in 2002, in an effort to make the best of Philippine literature more accessible to students and the general public.

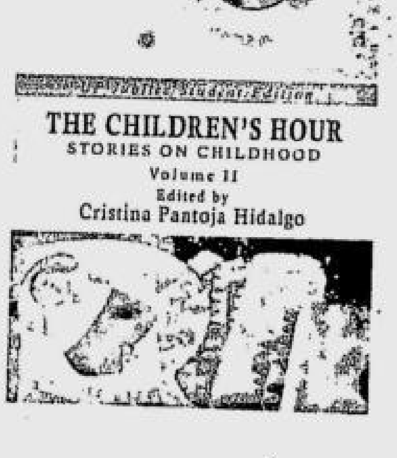
Abad describes these as "among our finest stories on childhood, a place and time of living long ago—the world as it were of the moon, rich in dusk and dream."

Hidalgo calls these writers "very sophisticated in terms of both perspective and literary strategies, the products of the university creative writing programs and workshops" and adds that "in the country that is home to these young writers, childhood is a dark and dangerous place."

Cover design of both books is by Migs Villanueva; and cover art by Rod Obemio.

Both Abad and Hidalgo are much-awarded writers themselves and have both served as directors of the UP Institute of Creative Writing. Abad is now university professor emeritus, teaching literature and creative writing. Hidalgo is now UP vice-president for public affairs. She is also a professor, teaching literature and creative writing.

The books are available at the UP Press Bookstore in the Diliman campus, Baguio, Iloilo and Davao; at National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches, Fully Booked, Popular Bookstore, Filipinas Heritage Bookshop, and Solidaridad Bookshop.



UP Jubilee Student Edition
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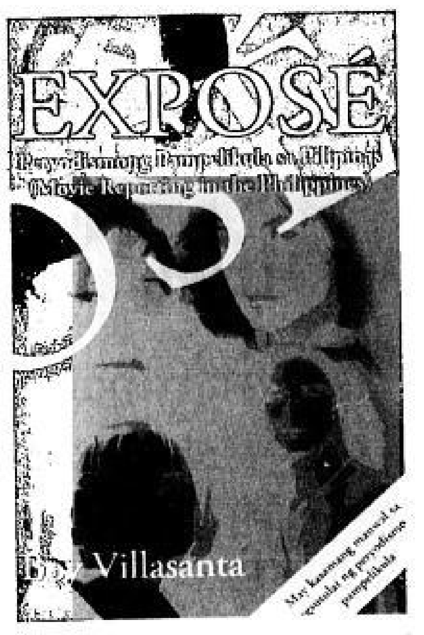
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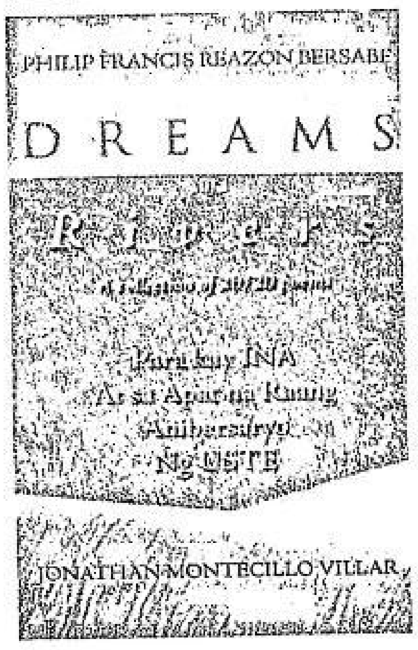
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DISSONANT UMBRELLAS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANILA INTERnational Book Fair 2007 on Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at the World Trade Center (WTC) in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, the UST Publishing House (USTPH) will hold the first part of its annual book launching on Aug. 30, 3 p.m. at the Makati Skyline Restaurant, WTC.

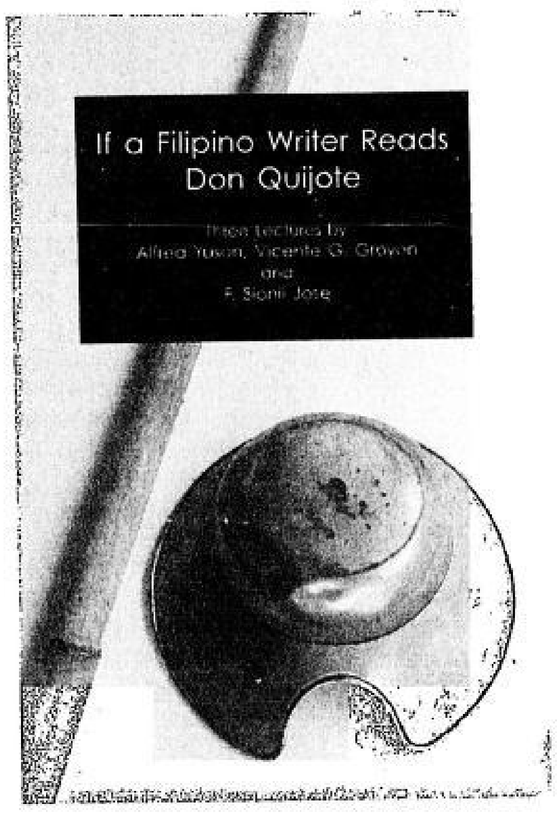
Some 25 new titles from various fields and disciplines, including literature, theology, and alternative medicine, will be launched by UST Rector Fr. Ernesto M. Arceo, O.P., Secretary General Fr. Isidro C. Abano, O.P., and USTPH director Jocelyn T. Calubayan. The second part of the annual book launching is set February 2008.

USTPH has been publishing at least 40 books a year since 2001 so as to come up with 400 books when UST marks its quadri-centennial anniversary in 2011.

Some of the new titles are:

"UST Theology Week 2005-Eucharist With Mary" is a compilation of the proceedings that manifests studies and discourses centering on Mary and the Eucharist. "Theology Week 2006-Vatican II: 40 Years After" addresses itself to and showcases some of the theological developments that have occurred since 1965, the closing of the council's aggiornamento. Both books are edited by Jose Antonio Aureada, O.P. and Richard Ang, O.P.

Co-published by the Instituto Cervantes, "If A Filipino Writer Reads Quijote" assembles lectures and essays by Alfred Yuson, Vicente Groyon and National Artist F. Sionil Jose on Cervantes' "Don Quixote."


If a Filipino Writer Reads
Don Quijote
Three Lectures by
Alfred Yuson, Vicente G. Groyon
and
F. Sionil Jose

Noted Divine Word priest and academician Hermogenes E. Bacareza comes up with a two-volume book that discusses the ties between Germany and the Philippines in "Philippine-German Relations: A Modern History (1834-2006)," Vols. 1 and 2. The book traces the connection between the two countries from their modern history of trade and commerce to significant political events that happened in both countries—the EDSA revolution in 1986 and the Berlin Wall Collapse in 1989.

Comprehensive and encompassing, "Legal Writing" penned by Judge Alicia G. Decano is a work that seeks to improve law students' and lawyers' writing prowess.

"Passion for Catechesis" is a collection of articles and talks by Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, O.P., one of the country's leading churchmen. The book, divided in three parts, presents the author's more than 20 years of dedication to the catechetical ministry both at the national and diocesan levels.

Archbishop Legaspi compiles his talks and homilies in "Heart To Heart-Journeying With The Priests In Prayerful Reflection."

Respected entertainment journalist Boy Villasanta presents the fascinating world of entertainment in all its historical and cultural richness in "Peryodismong Pampelikula Sa Pilipinas (Movie Reporting in the Philippines)."

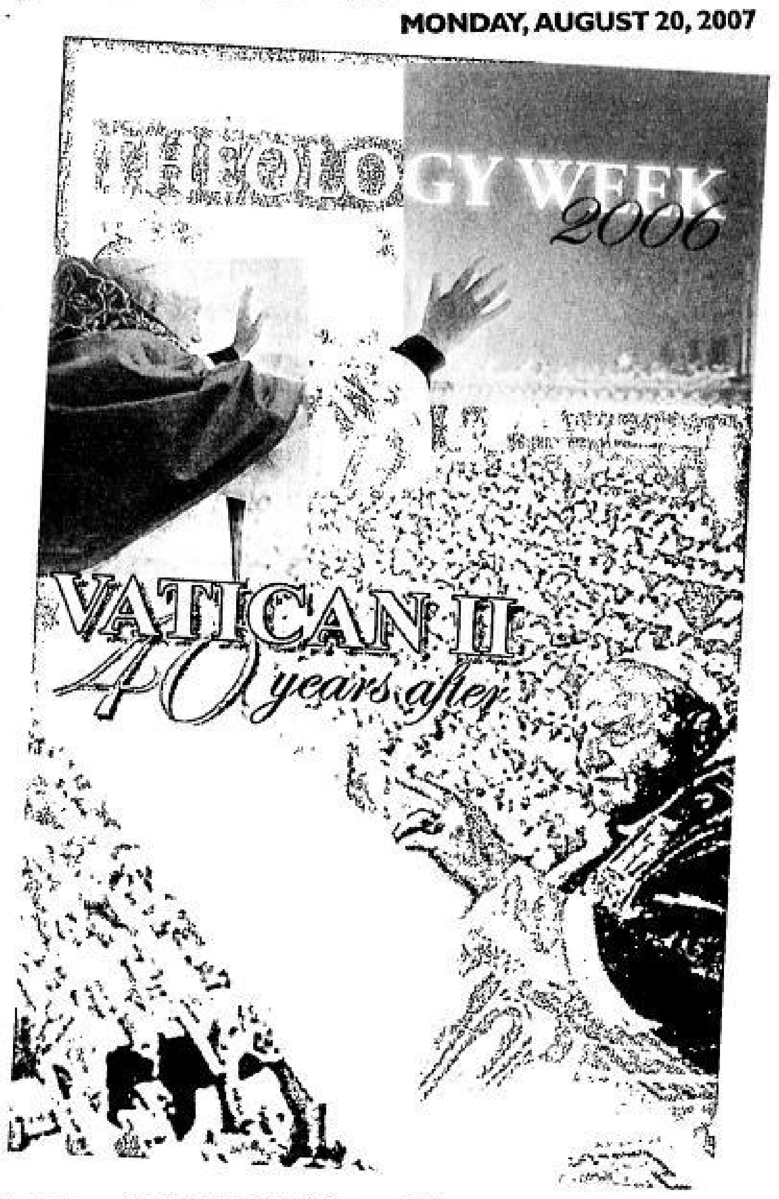
"Dissonant Umbrellas-Notes Toward A Gesamtkunstwerk" is by young poet and National Book awardee, Angelo V. Suarez. This poetry collection draws much of its content and form from modern and contemporary trends in literature, pop culture and social reality.

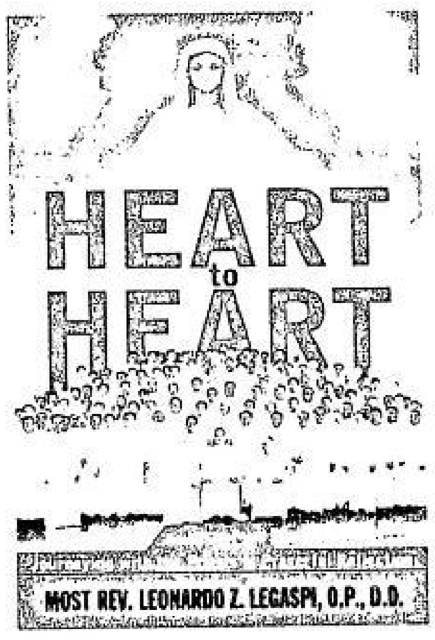
"Latay Sa Isipan," edited by Cirilo Bautista, is an anthology of poems by some of the best new voices in Philippine poetry.

"Dreams and Rivers" is a collection of poems by a priest, Fr. Philip Bersabe of the Archdiocese of Naga, and an IT specialist, Jonathan Villar, who collaborated on poems dealing with the Catholic faith, Bicol culture and the creative process of writing poetry.

Jose Victor Torres' book, "In Transition: UST During The American Colonial Period," chronicles the changes that occurred in UST during the first 37 years (1898-1935) of American colonial rule.

"Komposo ni Dandansoy," by Genevieve Asejo, is a collection of stories touching on isolation, migration and diaspora that are written in both Hiligaynon and Filipino.


THEOLOGY WEEK 2006
VATICAN II
40 years after


HEART to HEART
MOST REV. LEONARDO Z. LEGASPI, O.P., D.D.

"Buhay-Pinoy: Mga Piling Interbyu't Artikulo," collects selected interviews and articles written by former creative fictionist-turned-feature writer Fanny Garcia.

Award-winning playwright Glenn Sevilla Mas comes up with his third book, "Children of the Sea and in the Land of the Giants," a collection of plays that echoes the rhythmic cadence of Mas' native Kinaray language.

"The Tagalog Region: Lexicon of the Language and Dialects," by Commissioner Fe Aldave Yap, is a comprehensive reference for language researches, lexicon enthusiasts, phonology experts and students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the languages and dialects of the Tagalog region.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Tiger Woods takes Route 66 to win 50th career title
PSALM rebids Masinloc plant after YNN agreement falls through
Retired generals give up, move out of Jusmag houses
Pacquiao-Larios fight could push network execs over the edge
Palace backs bid to vote-counting machine

Artists get fellowship grants

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE ASIAN CULTURAL COUNCIL Philippines (ACCP) announces this year's recipients of fellowship grants who will observe, conduct research, and study their respective artistic specializations.

They are Josefina Estrella (Theater), ACC Philippines Fellowship Program; Hiyas Alejo Hila (Music), ACC Philippines Fellowship Program; Grace Nono (Music), Mandarin Oriental Fellowship; Jevijoe Batac Vitug (Painting/Sculpture), Porter A. McCray Fellowship, and Michiko Sy Yamamoto (Cinema/Photography), Natori Fellowship.

The announcement was made in a press conference recently held at Milky Way Restaurant on Pasay Road, Makati.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Isabel Caro Wilson, a member of the ACCP board of trustees, said that the grant was given to deserving Filipino artists to hone further their expertise abroad and return to the country to share their gained knowledge.

Ma. Lourdes A. Gamboa, another trustee, informed the guests about a fashion benefit slated next year. The ACCP Foundation collaborates with the Asian Cultural Council in raising funds to support fellowship grants. Gamboa hosted the Filipino lunch.

MICHIKO Yamamoto, Grace Nono and Jose Estrella

Ernest L. Escaler, chair of the board, led other members in attendance: Louie B. Locsin, treasurer; Rajo Laurel, and Patrick Reyno. Other members are Ma. Isabel G. Ongpin, president; Alan Jose Reyes, corporate secretary; Gabrielle Banatao, Karla P. Delgado, Rina Ortiz, Josie C. Natori, and ACC director Ralph Samuelson.

Grateful

The grantees acknowledge the generosity of the ACCP. For theater director Estrella, the grant will be her means of "re-energizing," as she seeks to know the latest trend in film and digital technology and its use in theater in the US, and how it can be applied locally in keeping abreast with technological advances abroad.

LOUIE Locsin, Patrick Reyno, Ernest Escaler, Amb. Isabel Wilson, Rajo Laurel and Malu Gamboa

Film and television screenwriter Yamamoto say that her grant will enable her to examine Filipino-Japanese intercultural relations as she tries to "find her other half" in Japan and thereby help promote a happy understanding of two cultural worldviews.

Neo-ethnic singer Nono emphasizes the importance of the Filipino neo-ethnic singer, who is yet to be heard on the international stage. Her grant to undertake research in the US will allow her to visit heritage centers, conduct study on oral traditions, and attend world festivals. The country has a rich and enduring heritage in oral tradition, and keeping them alive and part of the living tradition is a must.

For painter Vitug, represented by Isidro Gomez Hildawa Jr, who heads the Visual, Literary, and Media Arts of the CCP, the grant will allow him to continue a burning passion for the interfacing of the arts, visual as well as performing, all in keeping with the current trend of transdisciplinal fusion.

Irene Rada, program emcee, represented pianist Hiyas A. Hila, whose study for Doctor in Musical Arts in Piano Performance is made possible with an ACC grant at University of Minnesota. It was the same grant that enabled her to complete her master's degree in Piano Performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2004-2005.

Hila's study in the US, Rada said, has honed her talent as she continues to gain more exposure and knowledge in her field, which she intends to share with others when she comes home to teach and perform.

Love of the arts

Indeed, philanthropy promotes the arts, said Teresa Rances, program representative of ACC in Manila.

Whatever the foundation gets through its fund drive, goes straight to the grantees, added Reyno.

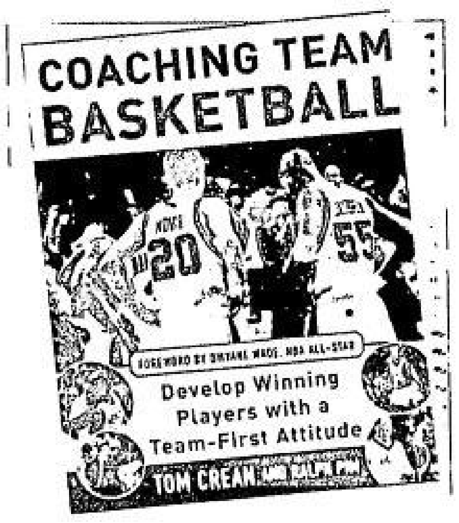
The board works gratis et amore, he added, all for the love of the arts, and of course, humankind.

The ACC established the Philippine Fellowship Program (PFP) in 2000 to offer more opportunities to deserving artists, scholars and cultural institutions. The PFP was created in partnership with the ACC Philippines Foundation, which collaborates with the ACC in raising funds, resulting in more grants that have helped the arts community stay vibrant.

Since the 1960s, the ACC has provided grants to over 300 artists and scholars in the country, most of whom have gained prominent leadership positions in their respective fields.

The ACC Philippine Foundation undertakes an annual fund-drive for the benefit of the ACCP Fellowship Program that funds the approved grants determined by ACC New York. The latter matches the contribution of ACCP, thus enabling the program to give more grants.

Individuals and institutions who wish to apply for grant support should send a brief description of their plans to the Asian Cultural Council's Office in New York by Jan. 1 of the year. Visit ACC's website at http://www.asianculturalcouncil.org.


COACHING TEAM BASKETBALL
FOREWORD BY DWYANE WADE, NBA ALL-STAR
Develop Winning Players with a Team-First Attitude
TOM CREAN AND RALPH PIM

Sports success stories

"A TIME TO ROAR: ENDING 28 AT 82" by Jude P. Roque and the San Beda Boosters Club chronicles the San Beda Red Lions' rise from a long championship drought to victory in the 2006 season of the NCAA.

"Tiger's New Swing" by John Andrisani is a fascinating look at what happens when golf's greatest champion takes one of the biggest chances of his career—trying to change an already good swing into a truly great swing—and succeeds.

"Wilt 1962: The Night of 100 Points and the Dawn of a New Era" by Gary M. Pomerant zeroes in on March 2, 1962, when Chamberlain scored 100 points in an NBS game against the New York Knicks.

Playing in a half-full auditorium in Hershey, PA, he made history by bending a team and an entire sport to his will.

Get away from the flash and start building your successful team today with "Coaching Team Basketball," by Tom Crean and Ralph Pim, a one-of-a-kind, step-by-step guide toward effective teamwork.

"Deals on the Green: Lessons on Business and Golf from America's Top Executives," by David Rynecki. takes a fresh look at the intersecting worlds of golf and business.

All books are available at National Book Store.

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- Glue

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SUBIC

To register, contact the Ad Congress Secretariat at: 8940838, 8943076 or 8125622; 20thadcongress@pldtdsl.net; or visit www.20thadcongress-theneworder.com

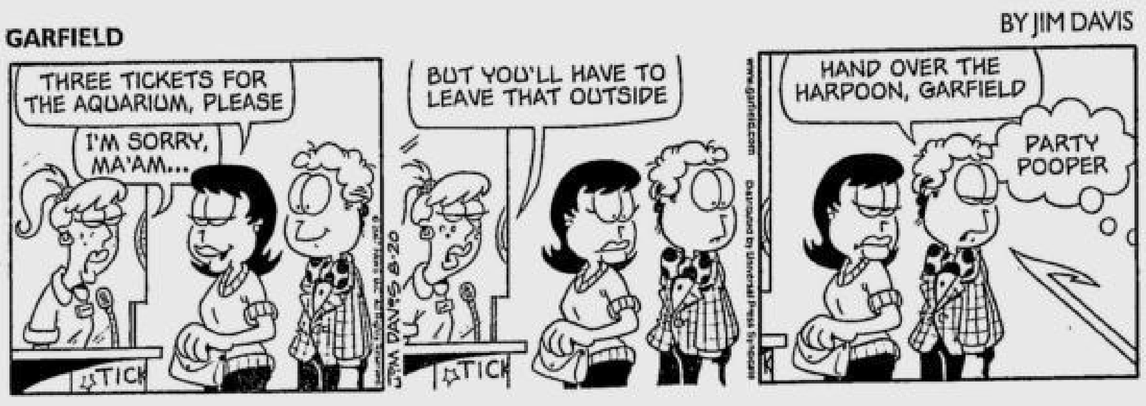
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007

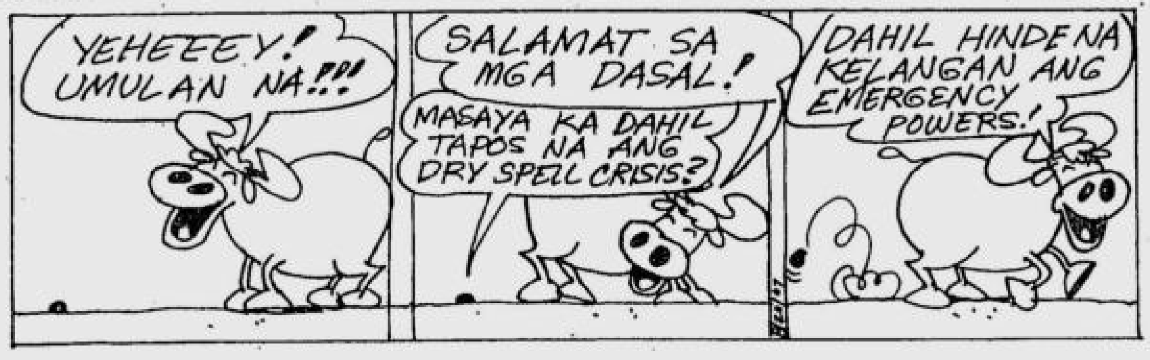
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


THREE TICKETS FOR THE AQUARIUM, PLEASE
I'M SORRY, MA'AM...
TICK
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THAT OUTSIDE
TICK
JPM DAVIS 8-20
www.garfield.com
HAND OVER THE HARPOON, GARFIELD
PARTY POOPER

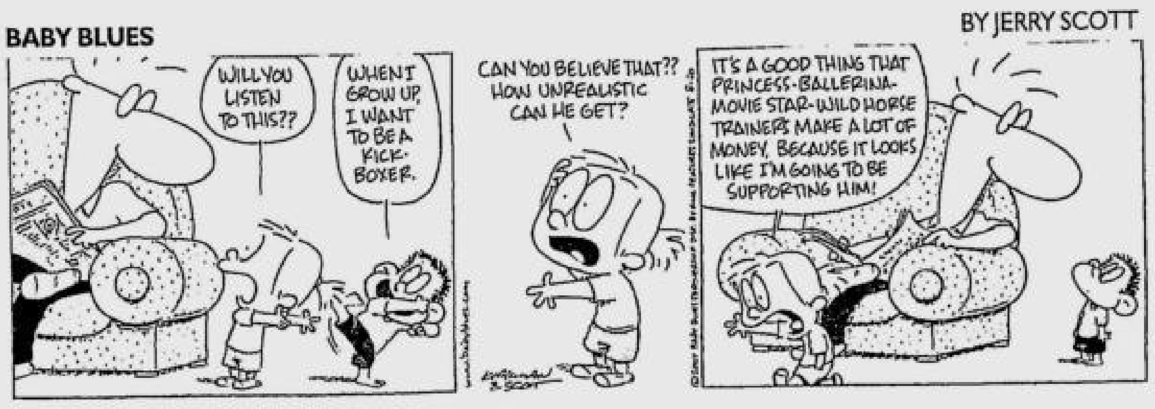
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YEHEEEY! UMULAN NA!?!
SALAMAT SA MGA DASAL!
MASAYA KA DAHIL TAPOS NA ANG DRY SPELL CRISIS?
DAHIL HINDE NA KELANGAN ANG EMERGENCY POWERS!

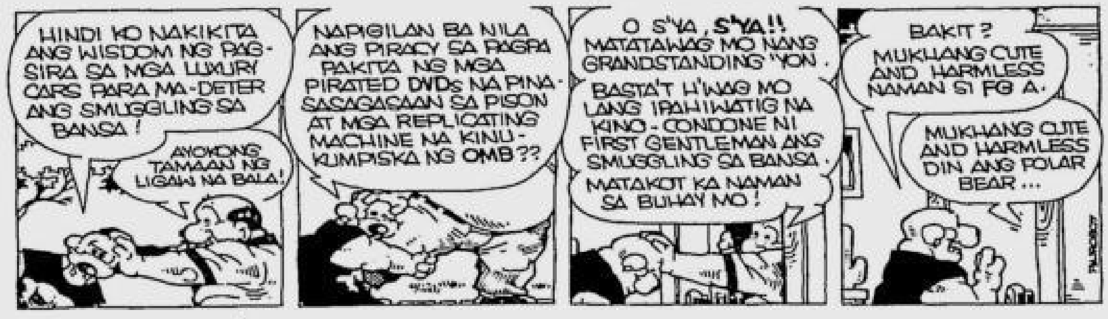
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WILL YOU LISTEN TO THIS??
WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A KICK-BOXER.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?? HOW UNREALISTIC CAN HE GET?
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT PRINCESS-BALLERINA-MOVIE STAR-WILD HORSE TRAINERS MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE SUPPORTING HIM!

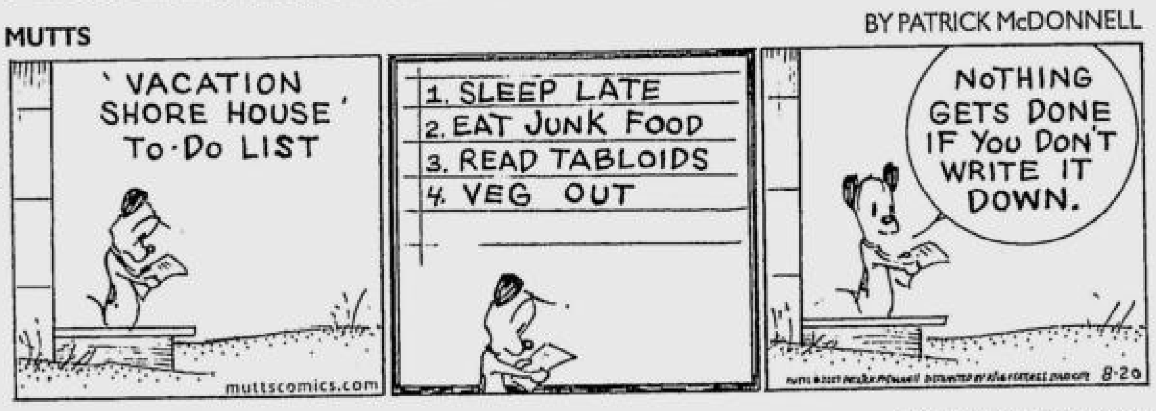
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KO NAKIKITA ANG WISDOM NG PAG-SIRA SA MGA LUXURY CARS PARA MA-DETER ANG SMUGGLING SA BANSA!
AYOKONG TAMAAN NG LIGAW NA BALA!
NAPIGILAN BA NILA ANG PIRACY SA PAGPA PAKITA NG MGA PIRATED DVDs NA PINA-SASAGASAAN SA PISON AT MGA REPLICATING MACHINE NA KINU-KUMPISKA NG OMB??
O S'YA, S'YA!! MATATAWAG MO NANG GRANDSTANDING 'YON.
BASTA'T H'WAG MO LANG IPAHIWATIG NA KINO-CONDONE NI FIRST GENTLEMAN ANG SMUGGLING SA BANSA.
MATAKOT KA NAMAN SA BUHAY MO!
BAKIT? MUKHANG CUTE AND HARMLESS NAMAN SI FG A.
MUKHANG CUTE AND HARMLESS DIN ANG POLAR BEAR...

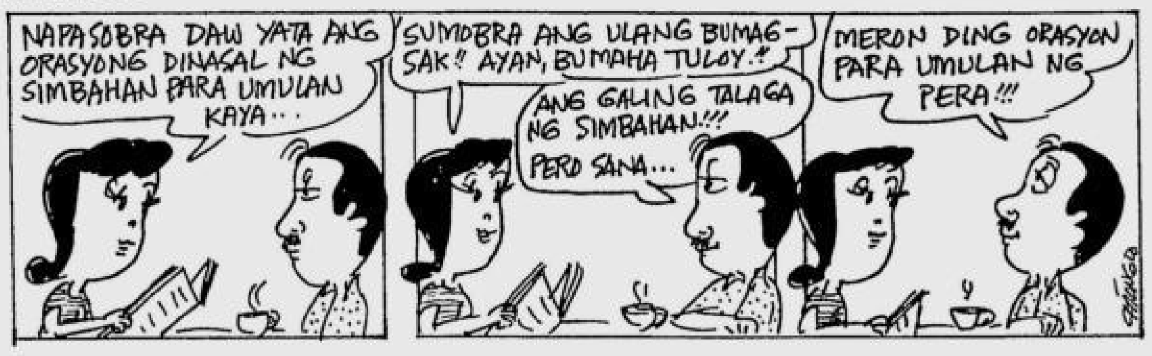
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


'VACATION SHORE HOUSE' TO-DO LIST
muttscomics.com
1. SLEEP LATE
2. EAT JUNK FOOD
3. READ TABLOIDS
4. VEG OUT
NOTHING GETS DONE IF YOU DON'T WRITE IT DOWN.
8-20

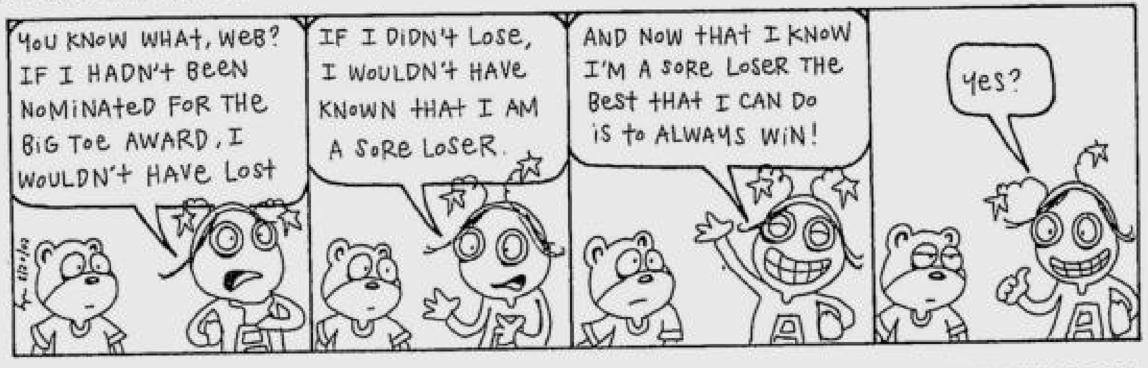
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAPASOBRA DAW YATA ANG ORASYONG DINASAL NG SIMBAHAN PARA UMULAN KAYA...
SUMOBRA ANG ULANG BUMAG-SAK!! AYAN, BUMAHA TULOY.!!
ANG GALING TALAGA NG SIMBAHAN!!!
PERO SANA...
MERON DING ORASYON PARA UMULAN NG PERA!!!

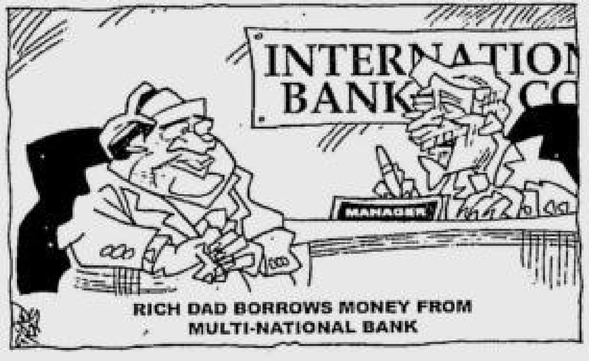
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

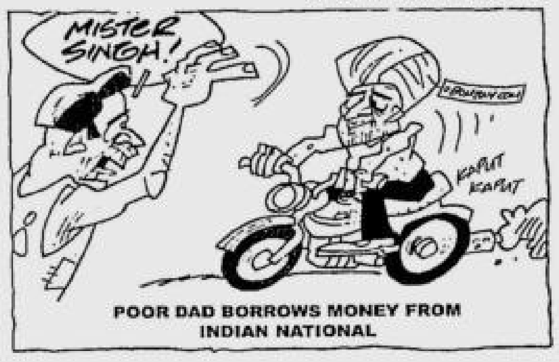

YOU KNOW WHAT, WEB? IF I HADN'T BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE BIG TOE AWARD, I WOULDN'T HAVE LOST
IF I DIDN'T LOSE, I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT I AM A SORE LOSER.
AND NOW THAT I KNOW I'M A SORE LOSER THE BEST THAT I CAN DO IS TO ALWAYS WIN!
YES?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


INTERNATION BANK CO
MANAGER

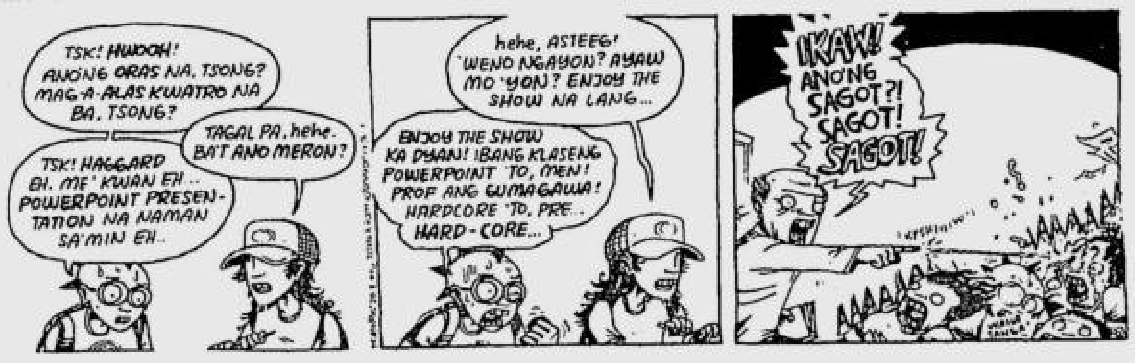
RICH DAD BORROWS MONEY FROM MULTI-NATIONAL BANK


MISTER SINGH!
KAPIT KAPIT

POOR DAD BORROWS MONEY FROM INDIAN NATIONAL

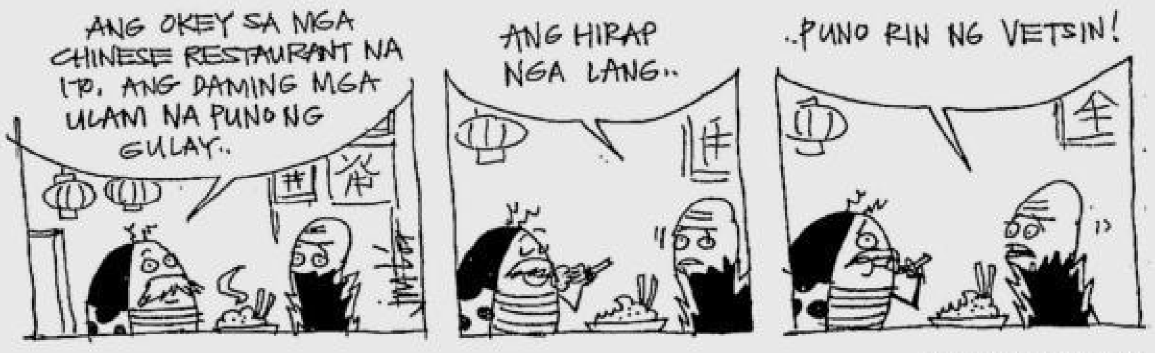
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! HUOOH! ANO'NG ORAS NA, TSONG? MAG-A-ALAS KWATRO NA BA, TSONG?
TAGAL PA, hehe. BAT ANO MERON?
TSK! HAGGARD EH. ME' KWAN EH... POWERPOINT PRESEN-TATION NA NAMAN SA'MIN EH..
hehe, ASTEEG! WENO NGAYON? AYAW MO 'YON? ENJOY THE SHOW NA LANG...
ENJOY THE SHOW KA DYAN! IBANG KLASENG POWERPOINT 'TO, MEN! PROF ANG GUMAGAWA! HARDCORE 'TO, PRE.. HARD-CORE...
IKAW! ANO'NG SAGOT?! SAGOT! SAGOT!
AAAAAA

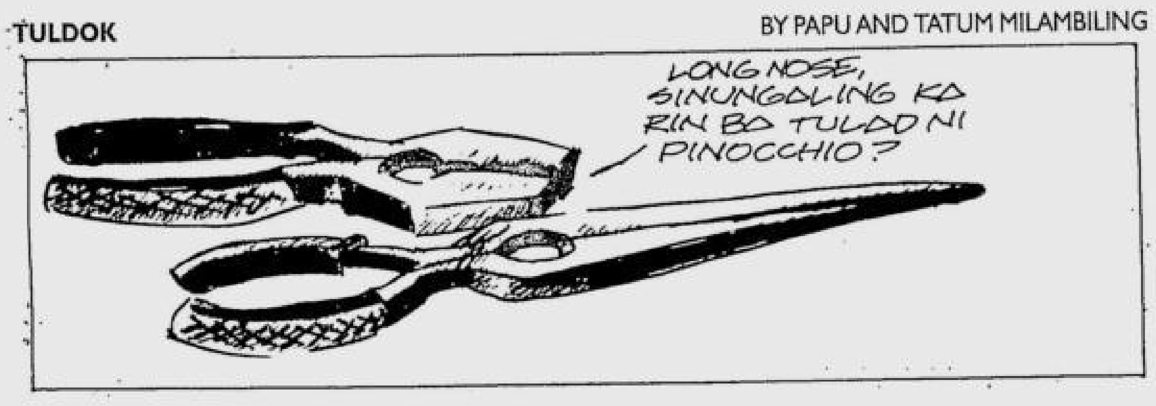
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG OKEY SA MGA CHINESE RESTAURANT NA 'TO, ANG DAMING MGA ULAM NA PUNO NG GULAY..
ANG HIRAP NGA LANG..
..PUNO RIN NG VETSIN!

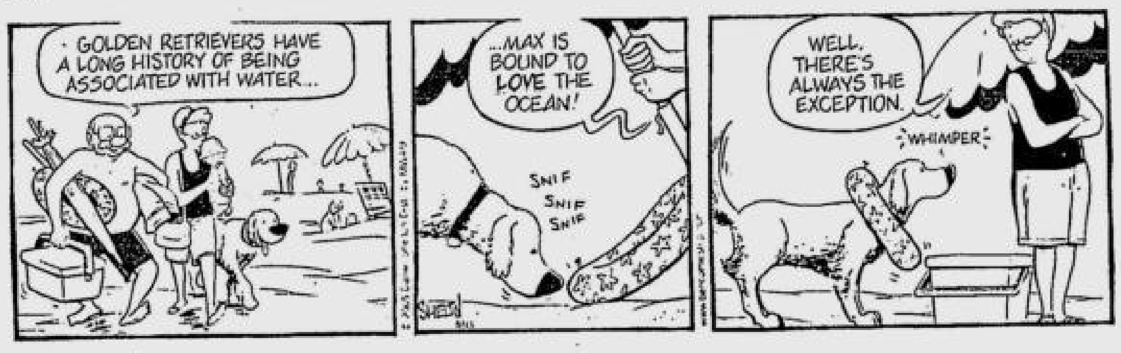
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LONG NOSE, SINUNGALING KA RIN BO TULAD NI PINOCCHIO?

BEN

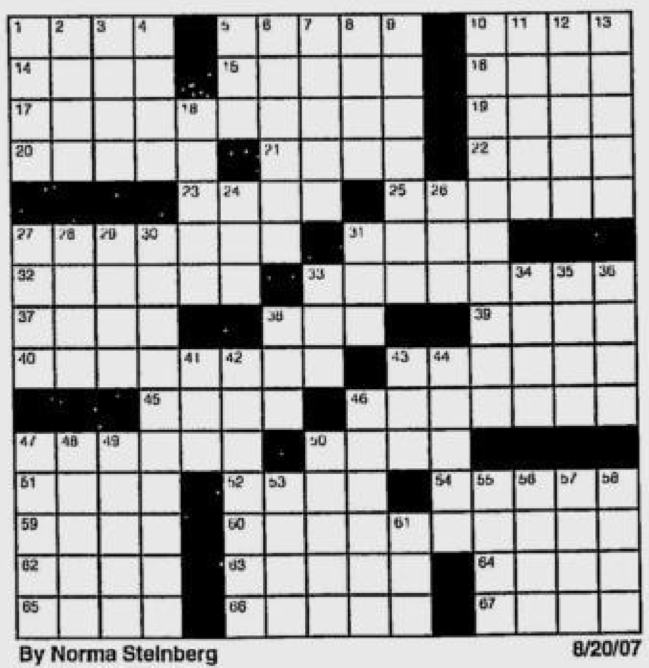
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOLDEN RETRIEVERS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH WATER...
...MAX IS BOUND TO LOVE THE OCEAN!
SNIF SNIF SNIF
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS THE EXCEPTION.
WHIMPER

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dillon of "Drugstore Cowboy"
5 Military installations
10 Was acquainted with
14 Quatro y quatro
15 Mrs. Mertz
16 Forbidden activity
17 Words of comfort
19 Director Preminger
20 Hair coloring
21 "Sopranos" star Falco
22 Street __ (believability)
23 Jolly old salts
25 Fireplace tools
27 Bilbo and Frodo
31 Champagne musicmaker
32 Quantity
33 Woo with song
37 McNally's partner
38 White lie
39 Hebrew grain measure
40 Victimizer
43 More ribald
45 Alley cat's cry
46 Gossips
47 Self-effacing
50 Type of lily
51 Genesis twin
52 Neighbor of Vietnam
54 Desert stopovers
59 Give money to
60 Evenly balanced
62 Walked (on)
63 Tested
64 Doggone it!
65 Nimble
66 Listens to
67 Corp. big shot

DOWN
1 Fluttery flyer
2 Yearn (for)
3 At that time
4 Ripped
5 Classroom favorite
6 Different ones
7 Sloughs off
8 Actress Hatcher
9 Unexpected success
10 Start of a joke
11 Ours in Tours
12 Keyboard key
13 Tiger on the tee
18 Dine at home
24 Esq. affixer
26 Bullfight cheer
27 Angel's instrument
28 Mr. Sharif
29 Canine treat
30 Chummy
31 Part of WWW
33 Knight's title
34 Alain's girlfriend
35 Woodlands ruminant
36 Goofs up
38 Coming next: abbr.
41 Popular ISP
42 Last of a dozen
43 Old cloth
44 Above it all
46 Examiner
47 Judges weight by lifting
48 Stage a coup
49 Lord's spread
50 Bulgarian capital
53 Yorkshire river
55 Part of ADC
56 Tunisian port
57 Nice to be?
58 Out of __ (discordant)
61 Fabric meas.



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

8/20/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	L	I	V	A	R		A	S	P	I	R	E	S
A	V	A	R	I	C	E		S	P	I	N	O	U	T
T	E	N	S	O	R	S		S	A	L	V	A	G	E
T	R	Y		L	E	T	S		C	L	A	R	E	T
E	R	A		A	S	S	U	M	E		D	E	N	T
A	A	R	P				L	O	S		E	R	I	E
U	N	D	E	R	A	C	L	O	U	D		S	A	D
			G	A	L	L	E	R	I	E	S			
M	A	R		P	L	A	N	E	T	E	A	R	T	H
O	N	E	S		O	R	E				N	E	R	O
N	E	M	O		C	A	S	T	E	S		S	A	T
I	M	E	L	D	A		T	A	R	O		P	I	T
C	O	R	D	A	T	E		M	A	R	L	I	N	E
A	N	G	E	R	E	D		E	S	T	A	T	E	S
S	E	E	R	E	S	S		D	E	S	S	E	R	T

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8/20/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a vivid imagination; at times, it almost overwhelms you. You're a private individual, and you're very courageous. You like to seek out activities where you can escape into another world and forget your mundane, daily existence. Most of you are quiet and soft-spoken. The year ahead offers all kinds of fresh opportunities and new avenues for you. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Greg Bear, author; Robert Plant, singer/songwriter; Joan Allen, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For the next three weeks, you have energy for mental work. You're willing to pay more attention to detail because you want to get things done properly!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Mental games, playful activities, reading, writing and amusing pastimes will absorb you more for the next month. You want to have fun!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might need some time to be by yourself in the next few weeks, because memories of your childhood will occur. Family conversations will be significant. You need time to cocoon.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're busy with group discussions and conversations with others, especially with relatives and siblings during the next few weeks. This is not the time to settle down and relax.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Expect to be caught up in business and commercial affairs more than usual. You're trying to plan all kinds of things relating to expenditures and purchases.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today Mercury moves into your sign, where it will stay for the next three weeks. This makes your mind very busy and active!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel more guarded about confiding in others in the next few weeks. You have a strong tendency now to try to keep things to yourself. (That's totally your prerogative.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In the next few weeks, you can expect to give more thought to your goals and expectations. You want to know where you're headed and what you can expect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good time to undertake any kind of study or training that can promote your career. Communication with bosses, parents and VIPs are important in the next few weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Like Sagittarius, you want to learn something new. However, you're willing to learn anything that helps you expand your experience of the world. Travel is a great option now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now is the time to have profitable discussions about finances, shared property, debt, taxes and the like. It's time to clear up some loose ends here.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions about difficulties with partners can be productive because Mercury is now moving opposite your sign. It's a good thing, because it helps you be more detached and objective about everything.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			5					7
	1	8	4			2	9	
	6				7		4	
6	4			9		8		
			6	4	1			
		9		2			3	6
	3		8				2	
	8	7			4	6	1	
5					2			

Difficulty Level ★

8/20

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	2	8	6	9	3	5	7
9	6	5	7	1	3	4	2	8
3	7	8	4	5	2	9	1	6
5	4	7	2	3	8	1	6	9
6	3	1	9	7	5	8	4	2
2	8	9	1	4	6	7	3	5
7	9	3	5	2	1	6	8	4
8	5	6	3	9	4	2	7	1
1	2	4	6	8	7	5	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

LIFESTYLE

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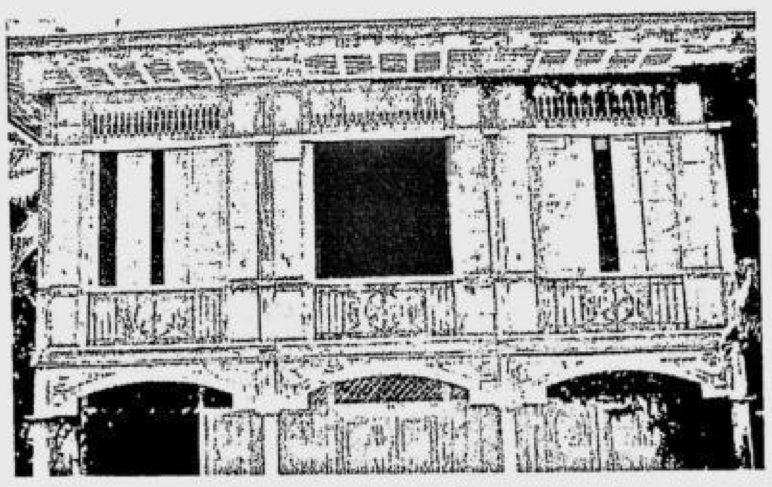
PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto Villalon



SOME Baclayon heritage homes share traditional Boholano hospitality with their bed-and-breakfast guests.

What are we to do with heritage white elephants?

DESPITE THE GROWING campaign to save Philippine heritage, the honest truth is that a lot (or most) of the heritage structures we campaign to save are really white elephants.

What are we to do with those white elephants?

On the verge of becoming white elephants are our World Heritage-inscribed Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera.

A site of incontestable beauty, the rice terraces are one of the few places on our planet where natural and cultural heritage combine to produce a landscape of such impact. Seeing the struggle for the place to keep up with the 21st century leads to the question, Is heritage enough?

Heritage might be enough for inanimate objects, stuff for display like empty architectural monuments or valuable objects locked up under glass in museums that are lifeless markers of the past.

A place like the rice terraces, unquestionably a marker of Philippine heritage, is far from being an inert monument to the past, enshrined in museum-like stillness.

For centuries the terraces' traditional practices—cultural, religious, environmental, agricultural, hydrological and artistic—revolved around the rice-growing cycle, supporting the life of their inhabitants. Massive migration out of the terraces is proof that the traditional lifestyle has become extremely difficult to maintain today, leading to an endless search for solutions that will update the tough Cordillera lifestyle while maintaining cultural roots.

Unlike similar rice-growing mountain terraces in China that have long been abandoned, the terraces of the Philippine Cordillera aren't relics. The terraces, however, search for ways to maintain their connection to human life.

Relics of the past deserve to continue living. Once it was thought that the best thing to do with an old Spanish colonial-era house was to turn it into a museum, so many houses stopped being homes and turned into excellent museums, each displaying exquisite collections of furniture and furnishings.

The museums as total nostalgia relive past eras through collections of objects from a bygone era that make no connection to daily life today.

Bed-and-breakfast

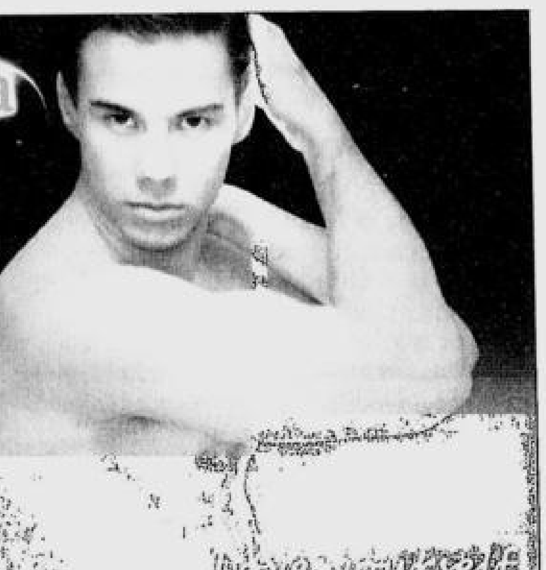
There are heritage homes that now have recently learned to make use of their past as a resource to connect to their present. Owners develop their heritage homes as a resource not only to generate additional income to improve their way of living but also to provide financial means to continue conserving their heritage properties.

Through the bed-and-breakfast program, heritage houses continue to be used and be useful rather than stagnate into lifeless museum displays or fall into disrepair and decay.

Owners of a group of heritage homes in the historic town of Baclayon in Bohol have formed a bed-and-breakfast association, initially offering a total of over 20 rooms in neighboring houses. Converting unused bedrooms as guest lodgings uses heritage positively as an income-generating resource, as a source of pride and local identity, and, most important, keeps the heritage alive and up-to-date.

And as a tourism experience, the hospitality offered by the homeowners partici-

WHAT ARE/ E4



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WHAT'S ON ROBINSONS

Oldies but Kiddies

Listen to ABS-CBN's kid superstars as they sing 50s classics from *Oldies But Kiddies*, their debut album from Star Records.

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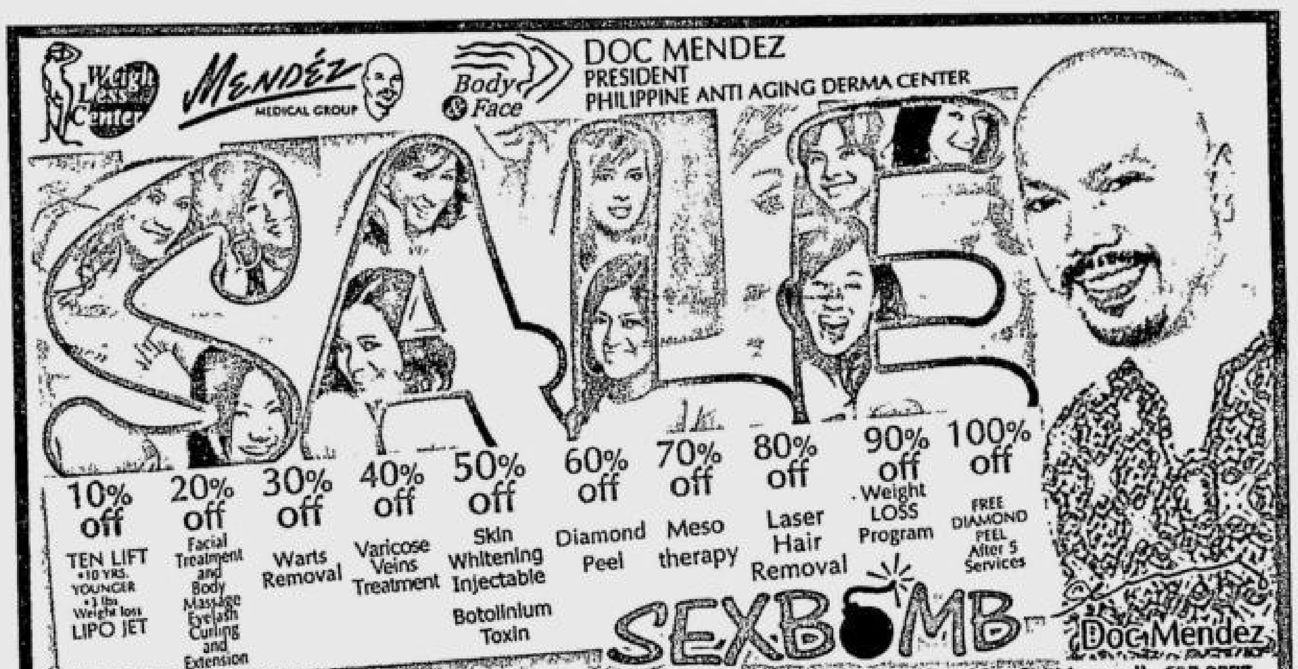

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Ahhchoo!!! Ahhchoo!!! Ahhchoo!!!

Baka may allergic rhinitis ka na!

Check out the difference between allergic rhinitis and common cold

SYMPTOMS	COMMON COLDS	ALLERGIC RHINITIS
Frequent and Regular Sneezing	X	✓
Stuffy Nose	✓	✓
Runny Nose	✓	✓
Itchy Eyes	X	✓
Fever	✓	X
Sore Throat	✓	X
Nasal Discharge	✓	✓ Usually clear
Body aches and pains	✓	X
Triggers/ Causes	Viruses	Allergens (pollen, house dust mites, molds)
Duration	Lasts about a week	Lasts as long as the allergens are present
What your doctor may advice	Rest, fluids, pain relievers, decongestants	BENADRYL AH

Pabalik-balik na ahhchoos, malamang di sipon--mukhang allergic rhinitis yan!
Kaya di kaya ng juice o cold medicine*!

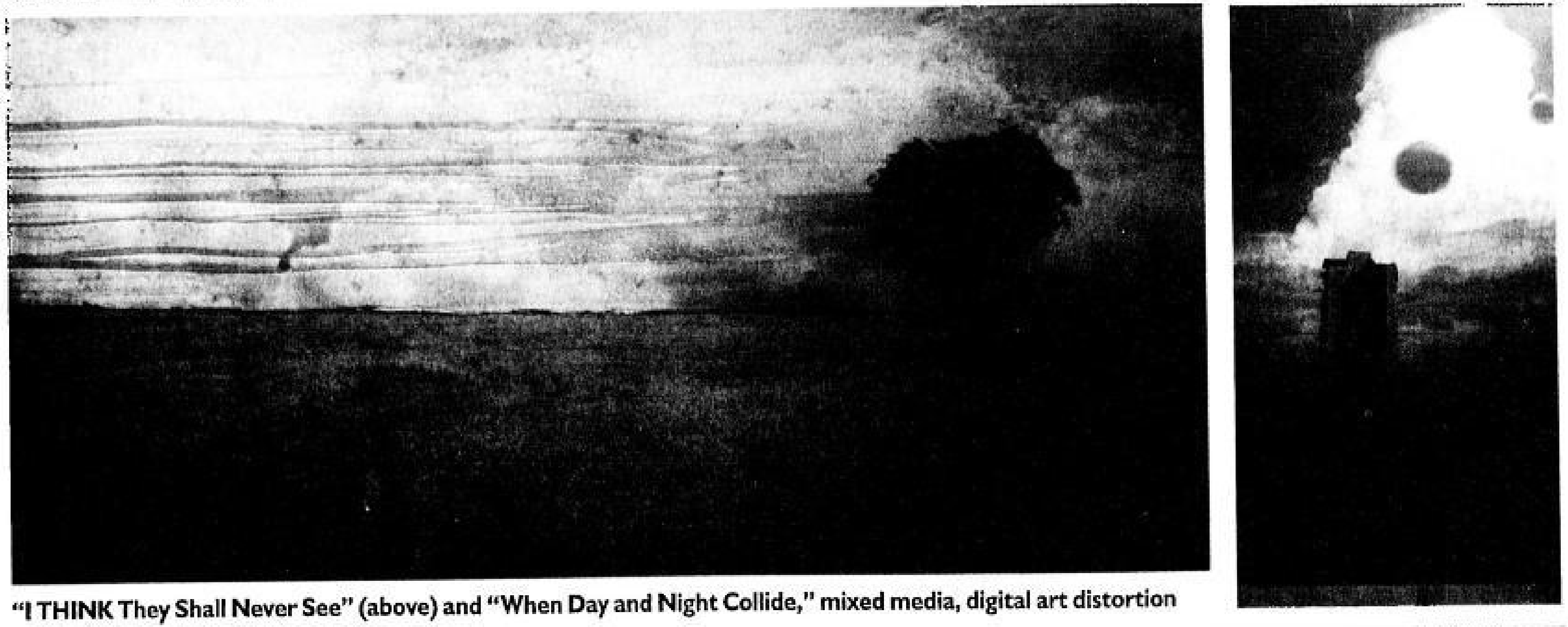
Remember! Basta pabalik-balik ang AHHCHOOS, RUNNY NOSE, at WATERY EYES mo, malamang di na yan sipon! Most likely, you've got ALLERGIC RHINITIS! Kaya 'di ito kaya ng juice lang or regular cold medicines*. Ang dapat Benadryl AH! It effectively relieves you from the most bothersome symptoms of allergic rhinitis.

Don't forget! Kung may pabalik-balik na AHHCHOOS, RUNNY NOSE AT WATERY EYES—malamang, allergic rhinitis yan! I-BENADRYL AH!

*refers to cold medicines without antihistamines only.

Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride
Benadryl AH*
AHHHHHla ng ahhchoos!

Remember! Basta allergic rhinitis, Benadryl AH!
AHHHHHla ng ahhchoos!



"I THINK They Shall Never See" (above) and "When Day and Night Collide," mixed media, digital art distortion

New media works by
music video director

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPpines presents "Parallel Wounds," an exhibition of new media works by Jaime Pacena II at the Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino (3rd floor hallway). The show formally opens Aug 22, 6 p.m., and runs till Oct. 7.

Pacena "Parallel Wounds" explores digital-based materials in print and in video. He tackles his own observation on the parallelism of the worlds we all live in, the human psyche, the parallelism of human conditions and emotions.

Pacena is a fine a
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Admission is fre

The art of the line

By Constantino C. Tejero

BENJIE TORRADO CABRERA HAS BEEN trying to expand the limits of his art so that his artworks have started to look like intergalactic drawings. In fact, he's been calling his pieces "visual text in space."

Those who've been accustomed to seeing engravings as monochromatic flat lines on flat surface should have seen his recent exhibit "Lines Beneath the Images" in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

One of the few, if not the only one, practitioners of burin engraving in the country, Cabrera studied on a grant at Atelier Contre Point in Paris. He represented the country in international print competitions and print art festivals in Kochi, Tokyo and Busan.

The richness of his art could be appreciated in his latest exhibit of 19 pieces. The fineness of execution and sophistication of sensibility come through every piece.

The free-flowing lines are also monochromatic and flat as in traditional engraving, but by using circular and radial repeat lines, crosshatching and spirals, he has imbued every form with an illusion of swelling breadth, of palpable tridimensionality.

Unearthly look

More significantly, he has engraved his designs on clear acrylic plastic squares and rectangles, and either arranged these planes in parallel series on racks or constructed them into cubes. The resulting artworks, both serial planes and individual boxes, are three-dimensional engravings that can stand for sculptural pieces.

"It is an attempt to articulate the art of the line as to its breadth," says Cabrera, "and to exploit the possibilities of its signification, the properties of its movement and energy in its field of reference, on a flat surface and in three-dimensional significant form."

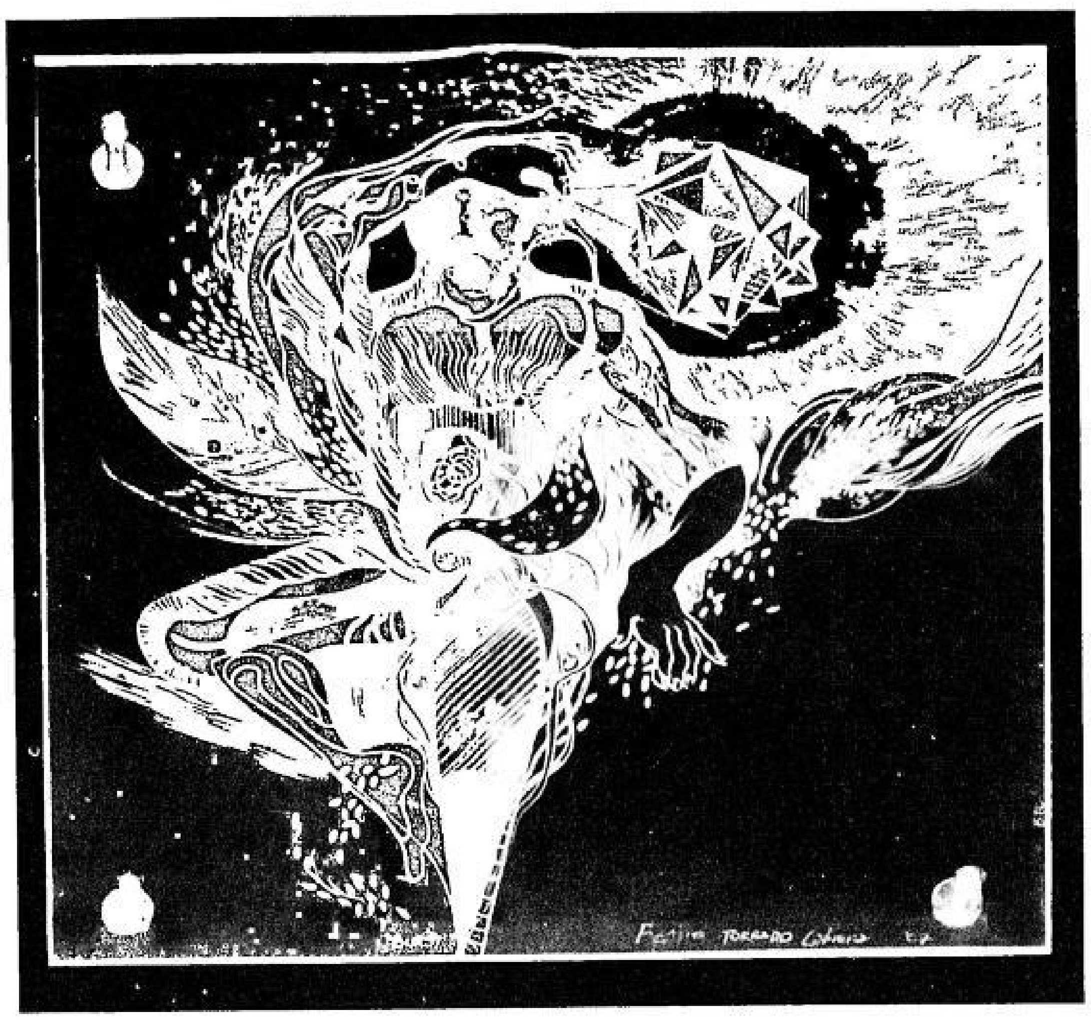
Simply said, he just wants to "rationalize and establish" the characteristics of one of the elements of design, which is line. And by investing his lines with the ability to pass through the surface, he believes he is able to "express their complexity and similarity."

The superimposition of lines in space results in an unearthly appearance that can be foggy, luminous or translucent, achromatic or colorful, depending on the direction and the color of the light. "Ethereal" can start to describe the effect.

The variables also include the objects behind the artwork, which, seen through the transparent planes, can create various colors and forms merging with the engraved design. Or even the objects in front of the artwork, which can throw shadows and thus transform the design.

Visual tension

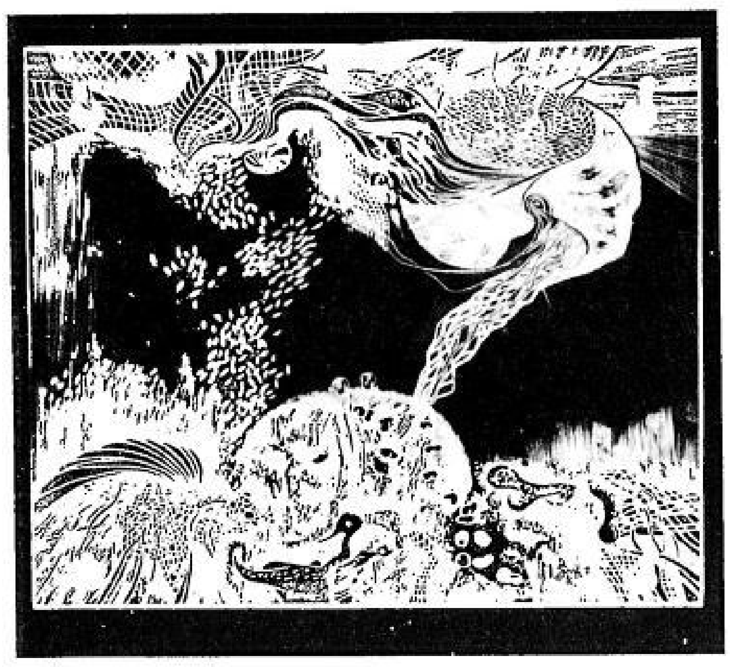
In a way this is ephemeral art, yet these are fixed pieces, permanent in structure and construction. It must be the artist's intention to create that kind of visual tension.

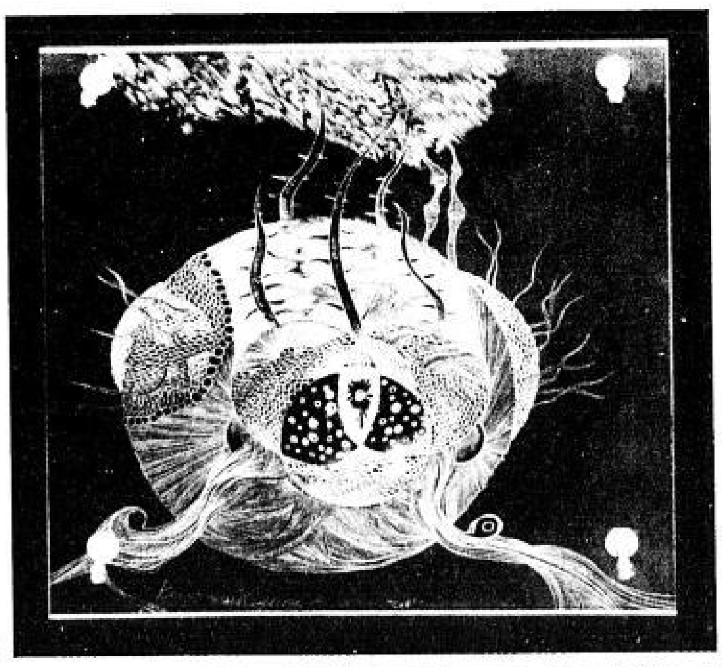


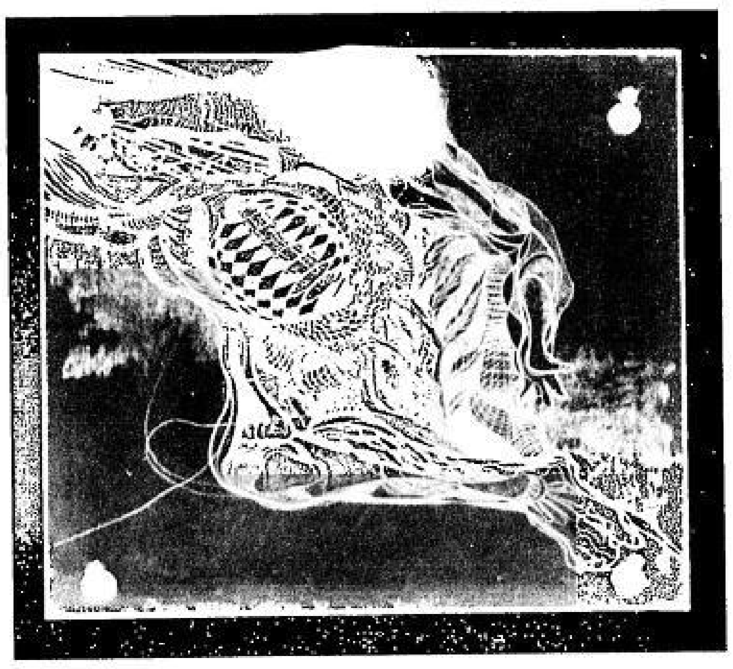
He elaborates: "These images try to convey the existence of opposites or polarities in physical energy—square format with free-flowing lines; square and circle; creation versus decay; light versus shadow."

The technique of superimposing a series of engraved plastic planes is meant to create "variations of shapes and lines, gentle contrasts and connecting parts, and areas of space asserting to be unified in one form." These contradictions and opposing yet unifying existence in nature, he explains, is the very subject of study by the artist.

An assistant professor at St. Scholastica's College Department of Fine Arts, with a master's degree from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, Cabrera can make a simple theory sound high-minded. But what he describes as his attempt to freeze the movement of the line does, indeed, "transcend the visual dimension of perception."







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By Jan Virnice
Contributor

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"FISH Vendor

Large Luz paintings on exhibit

GALERIE JOAQUIN IS PRESENTING a show of large works by National Artist Arturo Luz, Aug. 24 to Sept. 9.

Last April, a 2003 24" x 48" work by Luz, "Three Black Objects," was sold at $22,000, or approximately P660,000, in Singapore by Sotheby's.

Last year, during Luz's 80th birth anniversary, a 1957 work sized 45" x 32" was put by Christie's on the cover of their auction catalogue and this piece sold for approximately P4.2 million.

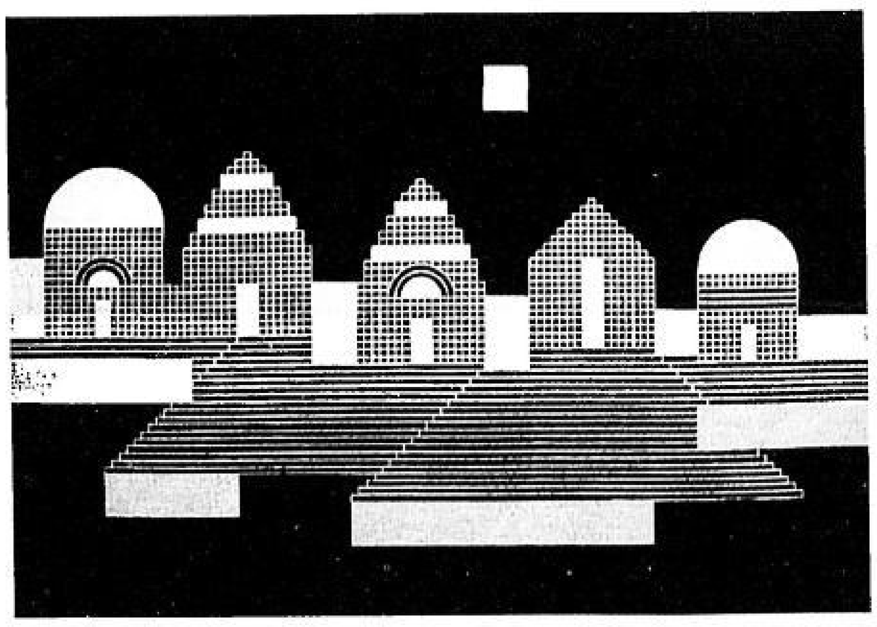
Titled "Large Paintings, Performers and Ancient Cities", the show's main focus are on seven works sized 48" x 60" or 4' x 5'.

These are two works on "Borobodur" (1992), two "Cities of the Past" (1999) and three "Performers" (1999).

Aside from the seven large paintings, included in the show are 24 smaller works: 12 works on Ancient Cities and 12 works on Performers.

The inspiration for the main piece "Borobodur" as well as for the "Cities of the Past" series came from Luz's 1988 extended visit to various Asian countries.

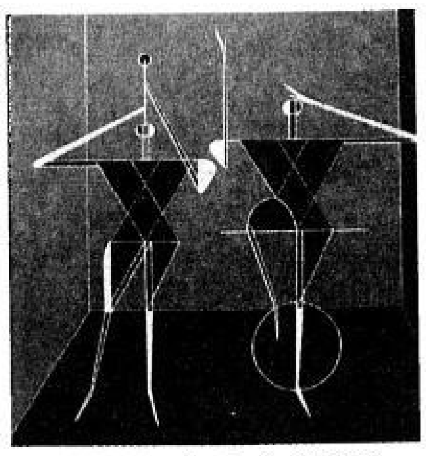
Art writer Cid Reyes in the book, "Arturo Luz," describes what happened next. "Inspired by his Asian travels, Luz constructed a utopian architecture out of the ancient temples, forts and palaces that have survived the onslaught of warriors, olden and contemporary, and the ravages of weather and time."



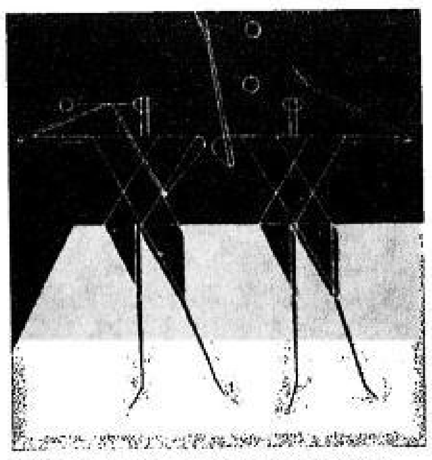
"BOROBODUR" (1992)

Luz describes the resultant paintings as recollections of his Asian pilgrimage. "They are not literal, but rather composite images from memory."

In Cid Reyes's book, Luz recalls having started painting cyclists sometime in the early 1950s. He had seen someone riding a bicycle with a man seated in front at the handlebar with a passenger behind him. He found this scene "so Filipino" that he made a painting out of it. He added a tooting horn to one of the figures and called it Bagong Taon. He has been painting cyclists ever since.



"MUSICIAN and a Cyclist" (1999)



"MUSICIAN and a Juggler" (2003)

During the same period, there were people who would go door-to-door around Metro Manila, usually in pairs; with an odd combination of musical instruments such as cymbals and horn, clarinet and drum, usually playing some form of unintelligible jazz. It was to capture scenes like these that Luz started his Musikero series.

In Spain, while on a study grant from the Instituto de Cultura Hispanico, he likewise saw a group of Spanish musicians, which created a lasting impression. He has, since painted musicians.

The acrobats came into his paintings sometime in 1954. He first painted them as if in a totem pole, standing one on top of the other.

It is these musicians, cyclists and acrobats that have become the main subjects of his now highly popular Performers series.

Luz was named National Artist for Painting in 1997. He studied at the UST School of Fine Arts, then received a scholarship at the California College of Arts and Craft in Oakland for a three-year diploma in art program. He continued his education at the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York in 1950 and at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris in 1951.

Galerie Joaquin Main is at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 7239253, 7239418 and 7278182; e-mail galerie_joaquin2003@yahoo.com.

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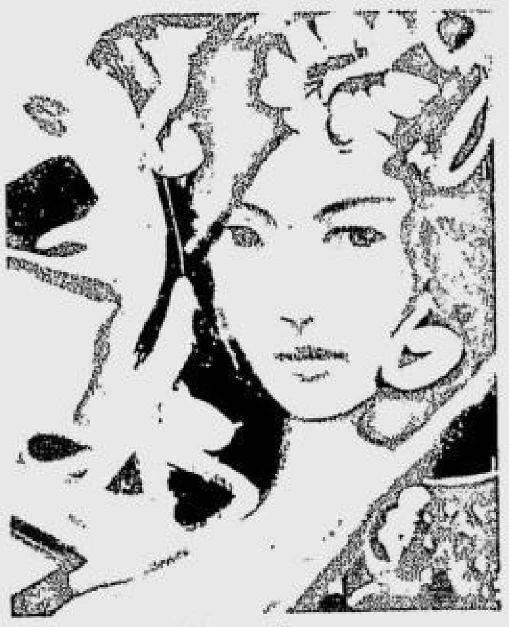
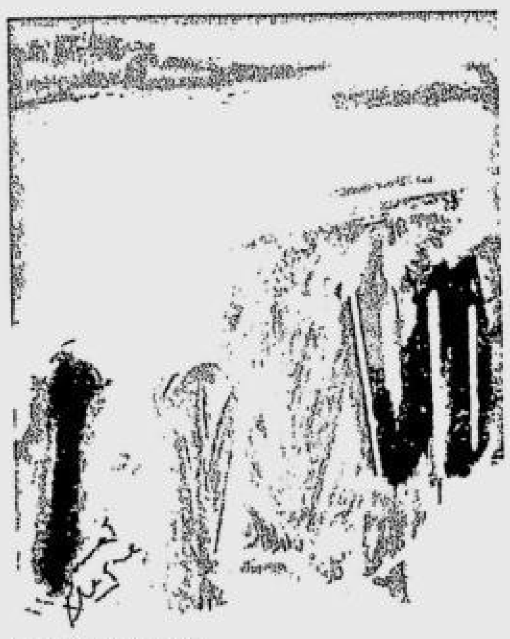
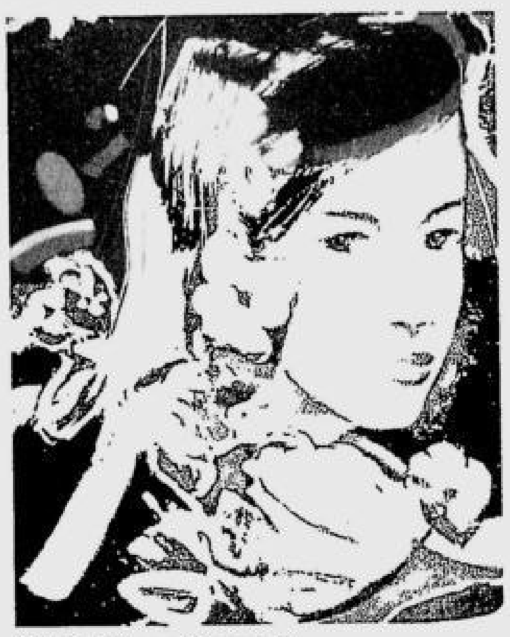


"MORE Than a Woman 1"



"WAVE Series 4"



"MORE Than a Woman 2"

Hermes Alegre's abstract muse

HERMES ALEGRE REVEALS A WHOLLY new aspect of his art in "More Than A Woman," his latest solo show now on exhibit at 1/L of Gallery (2nd level of Serendra across Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City).

Alegre, who is known for his paintings of beautiful women amid lush greenery, presents, on this rare occasion, abstractions.

While he retains his muses in only two works, he injects another form of his passion in bolder strokes, a bit rough and roguish, reminiscent of the artist's brand of personal charm.

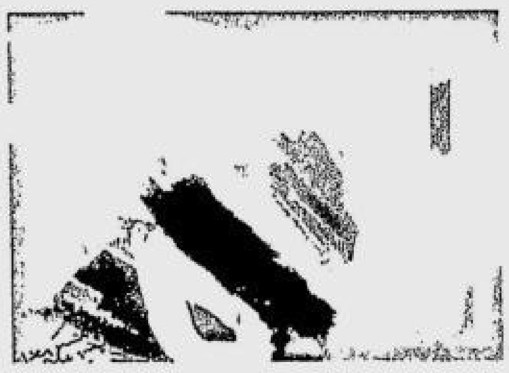
His latest foray into abstract includes the use of black, white, and gray with hints of red, yellow and purple, the textures of which are previews of what the artist has yet in store.

Alegre is quick to declare though that these works are not indicative of a totally different direction he intends to permanently take. He describes this outing as a fever that saw release in what may become rare works in the future.

Notable in the new collection is a homage to Alegre's hometown of Camarines. Called the "Wave" series, the works are inspired by the time that Alegre lived for a few years by the shores there. They are also inspired by the typhoons that hit the Bicol region last year. These pieces, which exclude his winsome females, celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the Bicol people's—and the Philippines's—resilience amid adversity.

Hermes's wings are not on his heels. Rather, they are on his artist's wrists ... with no reference to swiftness, but to getting his message through.

Call 9013152 or text 09178349444 for details.



"WAVE Series 6"

VISUAL ARTS

Barrioquinto at West

Andres Barrioquinto's latest exhibit, "Broken," featuring works in oil, runs until Aug. 28 at West Gallery, 4/L, Bldg. A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Barrioquinto treats his canvas as a journal, diligently painting feelings, impressions and encounters he can't otherwise express as clearly with words. A fine arts graduate of UST, Barrioquinto has also shown in Singapore. He received the CCP Thirteen Artists award in 2003. Call 6341284.

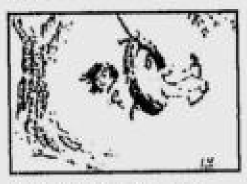
Castillo at UP Visayas

Anthony Castillo presents "Outbursts," featuring his pen and ink drawings, until Aug. 31 at the University of the Philippines Visayas Art Gallery, Iloilo City. Castillo is a psychology major from University of San Agustin, where he was literary editor and artist of the Augustinian Mirror. "Outbursts" is a visual journal of his bouts with bipolar disorder. Call 3379159 or 09185789146.

Camera Club marks 80th year

The Camera Club of the Philippines marks its 80th year with a photo exhibit, "Elements," at the G/F Gallery of the Ayala Museum until Aug. 29. The exhibit showcases images of the four basic elements of nature: earth, wind, fire and water, as seen through the lenses of members of the club. The exhibit will travel to several SM malls in Metro Manila in September and October. Visit www.ayalamuseum.org.

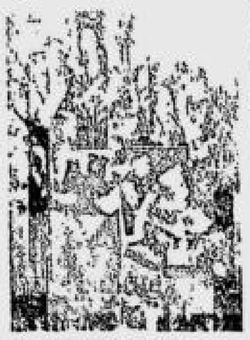
Anti-TV drawings in Baguio



"LUKSONG Tinik, Patintero, Atbp. (Laro Tayo)"

Anak TV and Baguio Museum present an exhibit of drawings by Vic Feliciano, "Luksong Tinik, Patintero, Atbp. (Laro Tayo)," at the Museum Hall on Governor Pack Road in Baguio City until Aug. 26. Over 40 pen-and-ink drawings depict children in traditional games that emphasize communality and interaction, rather than individualism and self-centeredness that are fostered by television and the multimedia. Call 3747066.

'Maximum Tolerance' in Iloilo



"UNTITLED," by Pierre Patricio

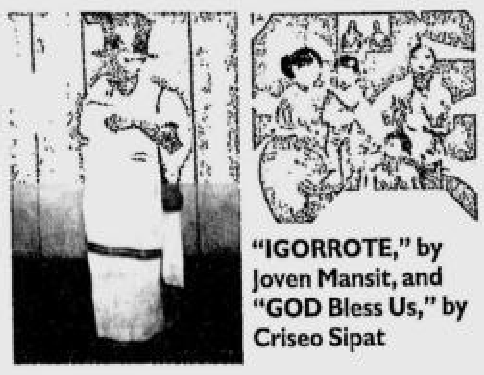
Lester Amacio, Czar Arro, Guijo Duenas, Allain Hablo, Rheo Nepomuceno, Pierre Patricio and Pg Zoluaga present "Maximum Tolerance," until Sept. 10 at the Galleri Graphitto, 2/L Mabini Wing Robinsons Place Iloilo, Iloilo City. The curatorial notes read: "Maximum Tolerance is the highest degree in which one is allowed to express one's belief. The exercise of maximum tolerance is very valuable in order to prevent chaos and violence." Call 0915886245.

Magno at Cubicle

The Cubicle Art Gallery (40a, C. Raymundo Ave., corner Stella Maris Ave., Pasig City, tel. 6416700) presents "Reified Delusions," recent works by Angelo Magno, until Sept. 8. The exhibit according to Magno, investigates how narratives are created when unrelated objects are integrated.

Robles at Galleria Duemila

Roberto Robles presents "Attending to My Stone," at Galleria Duemila, 210 Loring St. Pasay City. It was his correspondence with a poet he met abroad that inspired the title of his exhibit. He would write her at the end of a letter, "I must get back and attend to my stones." Call 8319990 and 8339815.



"IGORROTE," by Joven Mansit, and "GOD Bless Us," by Criseo Sipat

Art shows in Laguna

Five art shows are slated from Aug. 26-Sept. 19 at the Nineveh Artspace, 2452, 1st Avenue, Villa Silangan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna: "God Bless Noypi," first solo exhibit of Cris Sipat; "Memory and Amnesia," by multi-awarded young artists Joven Mansit, Ronald Remolacio and Jaypee Samson; "Kaloob," by Laguna artists; "Sensory Overload," by Las Piñas artists; and "Hunghang," by Manila-based artists. Call 09167720368 or (049) 8086617.

Manga workshop at MET

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila holds a manga drawing workshop on Aug. 25, 1-5 p.m., at the White Cube Gallery. The workshop will be facilitated by Melvin Calingo, a member of Point Zero, a group of comic book artists in the Philippines. For registration, call 5211517 or 5237855.

ARTIST Tam Austria (with hat) opens "Unang Letra," the three-man exhibit of Alder Llagas, Antonio Daleon and Angelito Florendo, at the Eeca Gallery in Valle Verde I (Atis and Kaimito Sts.). From left :Curator Marila Burgos, Austria, Nanette Hylander, Cleo Burgos, Isobel Ericksen-Vik, Llagas, Grace Vasquez, Divind Ericksen-Vik

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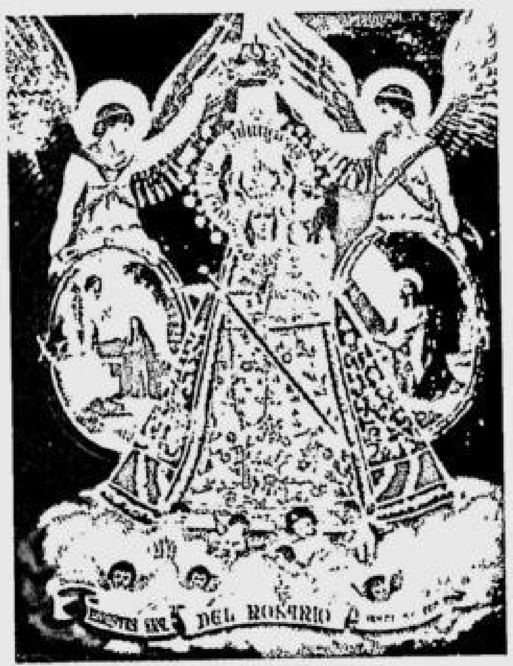
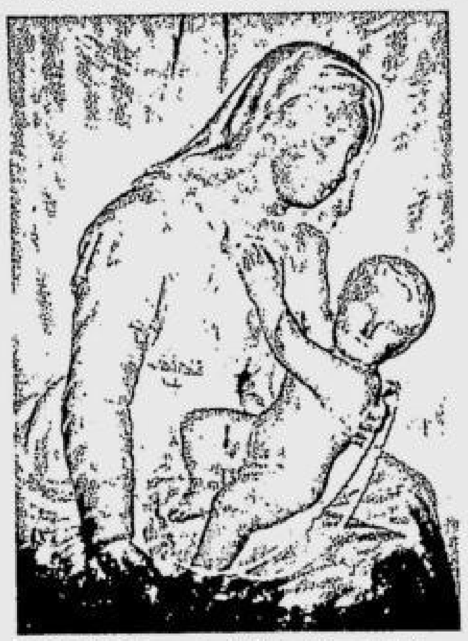
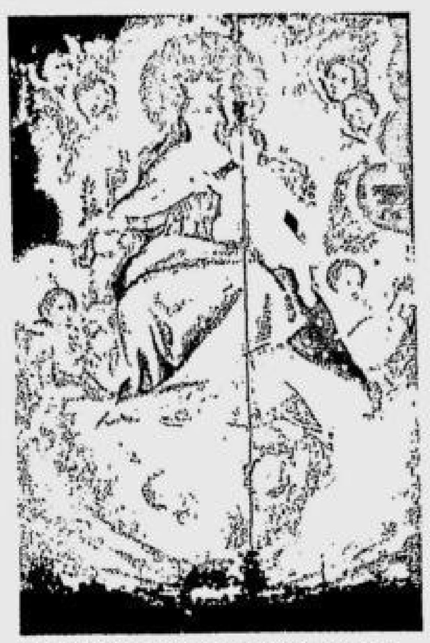
The show of ancient images, prints, paintings and sculptures of the Santisimo Rosario kicks off the centennial of the canonical coronation of La Naval, the first Marian image in the Philippines to be crowned on papal order


POSTER of the Canonical Coronation of Virgen del Rosario de Orani


MODERN bas relief of the Virgen del Rosario, from the collection of Museo de Sto. Domingo


AN 1850 Del Rosario from Lucena, Quezon, from the collection of Rei Nicolas

Del Rosario in ivory and wood, from Jerome de Jesus

IMAGE of Nuestra Señora del Rosario at UST parish church

Icons of Our Lady of Rosary on exhibit

THE PARISH OF SANTISIMO ROSARIO on the University of Santo Tomas campus will inaugurate a rosary exhibit on Sept. 8, to honor Mary on her nativity, an official Church feast.

UST parish priest Fr. James Alamillo, OP, says the exhibit will feature different images of the Sto. Rosario and unique rosary beads. An added feature will be a photo display of the Nuestra Señora del Rosario de La Naval during her stay in UST for 13 years before it was brought to her shrine at the Sto. Domingo Church in the 1950s.

The venerated image of the La Naval was brought to the university campus on the night of Dec. 30, 1941, three days after the Church of Sto. Domingo in Intramuros was bombed by invading Japanese forces. The much-venerated image was left unharmed because it had been placed in a vault for safekeeping.

On Oct. 10, 1954, a Marian year, she was brought to her new shrine in Quezon City.

The exhibit was conceptualized and designed by Rei G. Nicolas of the Museo de Santo Domingo in Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City. Various prints, paintings and sculptures were borrowed from collectors Tom Joven, Jerome de Jesus, Noel Abquilan, Gino Marasigan, Manny Castro, Dr. Jojo Valencia, Jun Manaban and Marian devotees from San Fernando, Pampanga and Quezon City.

A unique batik painting of the Santisimo del Rosario was commissioned from Sri Lanka, courtesy of Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, OP.

The exposition, which runs until Oct. 14, is part of the centennial celebration of the canonical coronation of La Naval and the UST parish fiesta, which falls on Oct. 7.

The centuries-old and history-rich icon of La Naval was the first Marian image in the Philippines to be canonically crowned on orders of the pope in 1907.

Various researches for the exhibit were done by Bro. Jessie Yap, OP, James Patrick Jaring, and Peter Paul Nicolas.

Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP, rector of UST, will open and bless the exhibit. He will be assisted by Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, OP, chair of the centennial celebrations, as well as by Manila Rep. Ma. Theresa Bonoan-David and Vice Mayor Isko Moreno.

REGINA Sacratisimi Rosario exhibit committee members: Tom Joven, Jerome de Jesus, Noel Abquilan and Gino Marasigan

FR. JAMES Alamillo, OP, parish priest (far left) and Rei Nicolas, curator

St. Pius X Seminary of Roxas City marks golden jubilee

ST. PIUS X SEMINARY IN ROxas City will mark its golden jubilee year. On Aug. 21, with Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo of the Diocese of Capiz as main celebrant, the Capiz clergy and former seminarians and friends will hold a solemn Pontifical Mass to coincide with the feast of Saint Pius X.

Msgr. Wojciech Zaluski, charge d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature, will be the homilist.

For the hundreds of Pian alumni who went to high school or college there, the jubilee will be a very sentimental reunion. Priests, bishops and former seminarians—some coming from different parts of the Philippines and even from the United States—are expected to attend.

The seminary's first rector was the late Cardinal Sin (then Father Jaime Sin) when it opened in 1957. Former SPX seminary priests who eventually became bishops include Bishop Vicente Navarra of Bacolod and Bishop Raul Martirez. Among seminary alumni who became bishops are Bishop Warlito Cajandig of Mindoro, Bishop Jose Advincula of San Carlos City, and Bishop Corazon Talaoc of Romblon.

The former governor of Capiz and present Mayor of Roxas City, Vicente Bermejo, is a seminary alumnus. Fr. Erno Diaz, first Filipino pastor in the Archdiocese of New York and now director of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in New York City, is a product of St. Pius X Seminary. He will attend the jubilee.

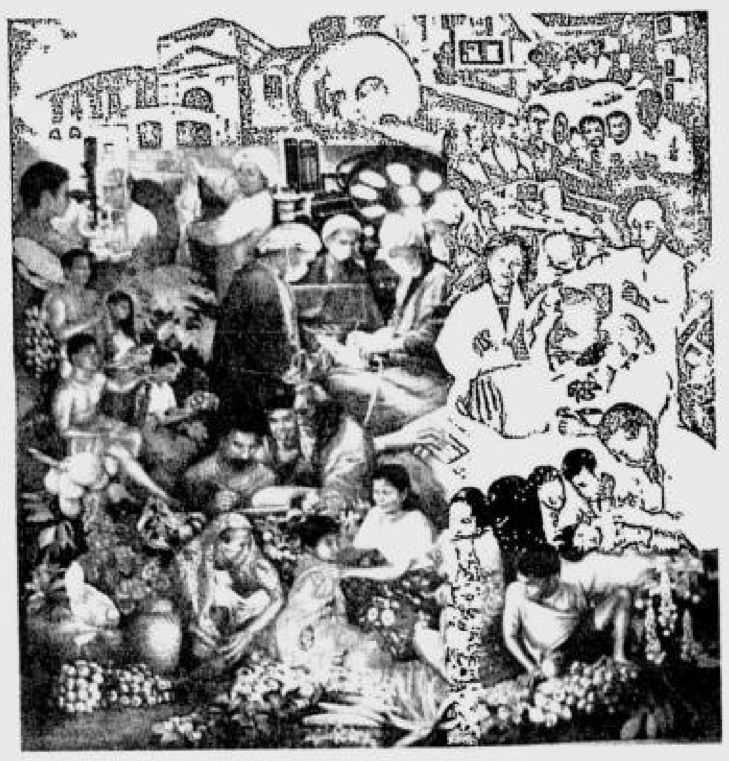
In New York, Father Diaz gathered the Capicenos and former students for a Mass of Thanksgiving last Aug. 5 at the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Lower Manhattan in celebration of his alma mater's golden jubilee.

The three-day jubilee celebration in Roxas City began on Aug. 19 with a basketball tournament among the visiting alumni followed by socials, then a Novena Mass officiated by Archbishop Gordoncillo.

Today at 4 p.m., there will be Vespers Mass to be officiated by Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, archbishop of Cebu. This will be followed by dinner and a program showcasing the 50 years of St. Pius X Seminary.

Finally, the Jubilee Mass will be held on Aug. 21 at 9 a.m. followed by the blessing of the Jubilee Door and the launching of the book on the history of the seminary.

For more information, call Fr. Edsel Delfin, rector of St. Pius X Seminary, at (036) 6210453.


NEW BLANCO FAMILY MURAL
"100 YEARS of Philippine General Hospital." A mural depicting the history of medicine in the Philippines has been unveiled as part of the PGH centennial anniversary. The mural is done by the Blanco family of artists of Angono, Rizal.

JOSÉ V. Blanco and family: Noel, Jan, Glenn, Joy, Loring, Pitok (José), Peter Paul, Michael and Gary

What are we to . . .

From page E1

pating in the Baclayon bed-and-breakfast program brings travelers into personal contact with the gentle Boholano culture.

Heritage houses glow differently when occupied. Their glow becomes warmer when they continue usefulness, as lodging houses, schools, offices, or for whatever purpose. They also glow better because they are earning their keep.

Definitely with a glow that warms the heart is the Dauis *convento* in Bohol where, under a magnificently painted wooden cupola in the *convento*, a dinner of down-home Boholano cuisine is served by local youth trained as cooks and waiters.

They serve the regional Bisayá food of my youth on impeccable china and linen in unsurpassable *convento* surroundings, a great experience that combines tangible heritage (the splendid architecture of the *convento*) and intangible heritage (regional food, performances of traditional music).

Intangibles

The intangibles give life to heritage, connects heritage to people. Instead of the sites being lifeless and empty, think of the texture daily life adds to the rice terraces, the heritage houses of Baclayon, and the white elephant that would have been the Dauis *convento*.

In the three sites, heritage generates income through tourism, one of the more obvious uses for heritage-based resources.

The intangible, or the software, makes the heritage memorable. It is the stuff that makes for great tourism experiences.

It is the intangible that radiates life to a place, connects tourists to locals and their traditions.

The intangible is the "spirit of place" that makes the visitor part of the local life, even if just for a few hours or days.

Think of the rice terraces without inhabitants, the houses in Baclayon empty, the *convento* in Dauis continuing to decay.

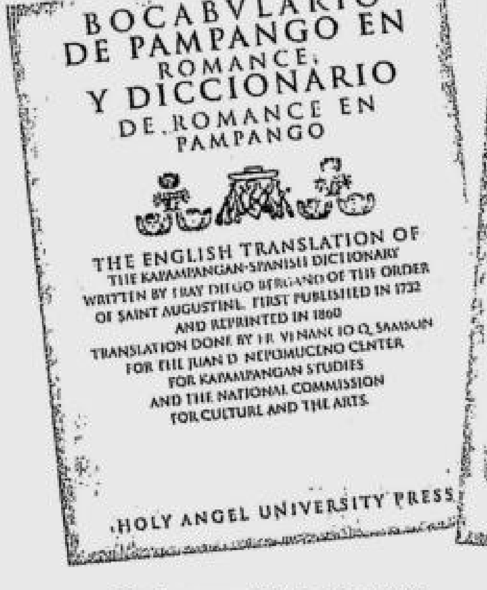
Then see the benefits from judicious use of their heritage as resources for income-generation.

Heritage really should not produce more white elephants than we can handle. It should benefit people.

Baclayon bed-and-breakfast will be ready to receive visitors in the near future. Bookings are required at Dauis convento, call 0921-6643277 or (038) 502-2008.

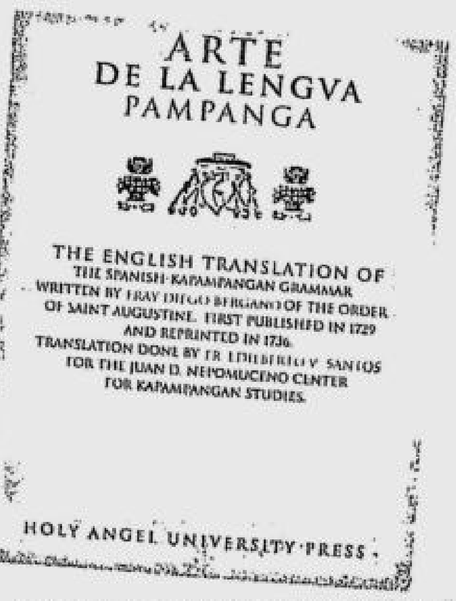
E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com

18th-century dictionaries by friars to be launched as Pampanga gov't cites Augustinian legacy


BOCABVLARIO
DE PAMPANGO EN
ROMANCE,
Y DICCIONARIO
DE ROMANCE EN
PAMPANGO

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
THE KAPAMPANGAN-SPANISH DICTIONARY
WRITTEN BY FRAY DIEGO BERGAÑO OF THE ORDER
OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1732
AND REPRINTED IN 1860
TRANSLATION DONE BY FR. VENANCIO Q. SAMSON
FOR THE JUAN D. NEPOMUCENO CENTER
FOR KAPAMPANGAN STUDIES
AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY PRESS


ARTE
DE LA LENGVA
PAMPANGA

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
THE SPANISH-KAPAMPANGAN GRAMMAR
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FOR KAPAMPANGAN STUDIES.

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY PRESS

THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF PAMpanga has passed Resolution No. 945, which gives "due recognition and honor to the Augustinian missionaries for their pioneering efforts in Pampanga and for their role in the preservation of Kapampangan culture."

Thus, Pampanga has become the first province in the Philippines to officially thank the Spanish missionaries who labored in the country during colonial times.

The resolution, drafted by the Holy Angel University Center for Kapampangan Studies and sponsored by board members Catalina Bagasina and Karl Domingo, has been signed by the SP presiding officer, Vice Governor Joseller Guiao, and approved by Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

A copy of the resolution will be presented to officials of the Augustinian Order and the Spanish Embassy on Aug. 24 in Intramuros, Manila, during the book launching of an 18th century Kapampangan dictionary published by HAU.

"This is a historic event because for the very first time in Philippine history, the country, or at least one region in the country, thanked the Spanish missionaries for all the good things they did here," said Robby Tantingco, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies. "Notwithstanding the anti-friar sentiment which is not without basis, the friars, especially the ones assigned to Pampanga, deserve our gratitude as a people."

The resolution cited the Augustinians' works in Pampanga such as their role in organizing towns and parishes, their construction of churches and their publication of dictionaries and other books, and their acts of charity during epidemics, calamities and wars.

The resolution made special mention of churches which have become 'monuments of great historical and heritage value and testaments to the Kapampangans' ingenuity and fidelity to the Church.'"

Tantingco said that the Spanish missionaries designed and inspired the building of the churches. "Kapampangans did not build temples like Hindu and Buddhist people in other parts of Southeast Asia did, but when the missionaries showed them how to build churches, Kapampangans outdid themselves."

The resolution also mentioned the Kapampangan dictionaries and grammars that the missionaries wrote and published, "which have become sources of Kapampangan linguistic and anthropological information." Two such books, translated into English and published by HAU, will be launched on Aug. 24 at the Convento de San Agustin, the mother house of the Augustinians in the country.

San Fernando Archbishop Paciano B. Aniceto and other Kapampangan bishops will concelebrate a Mass at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros prior to the book launching.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino are sponsoring the launching with Holy Angel University.

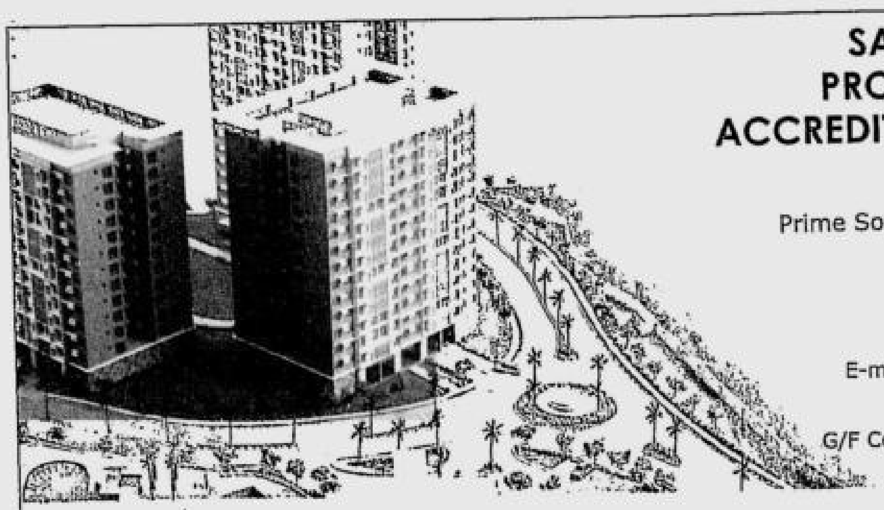
Noted linguists and translation experts will give their reviews of the books, both authored by 18th century Augustinian missionary Fray Diego Bergaño, and translated by Kapampangan priests Fr. Venancio Samson and Fr. Edilberto Santos.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
ge/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

JULIA'S NIECE Emma Roberts, Julia's niece and star of Nickelodeon's "Unfabulous," plays the title role in Warner Brothers' new teen comedy "Nancy Drew." She describes her new characters as "nice, but nobody's fool."

INSIDE

- ▨ **The indie roundtable talks** Exclusive /F4
- ▨ **Docu on Bae tops Moonrise festival** /F2
- ▨ **Movie hits and misses** Viewfinder /F3
- ▨ **First all-Saudi music video exults God** /G4



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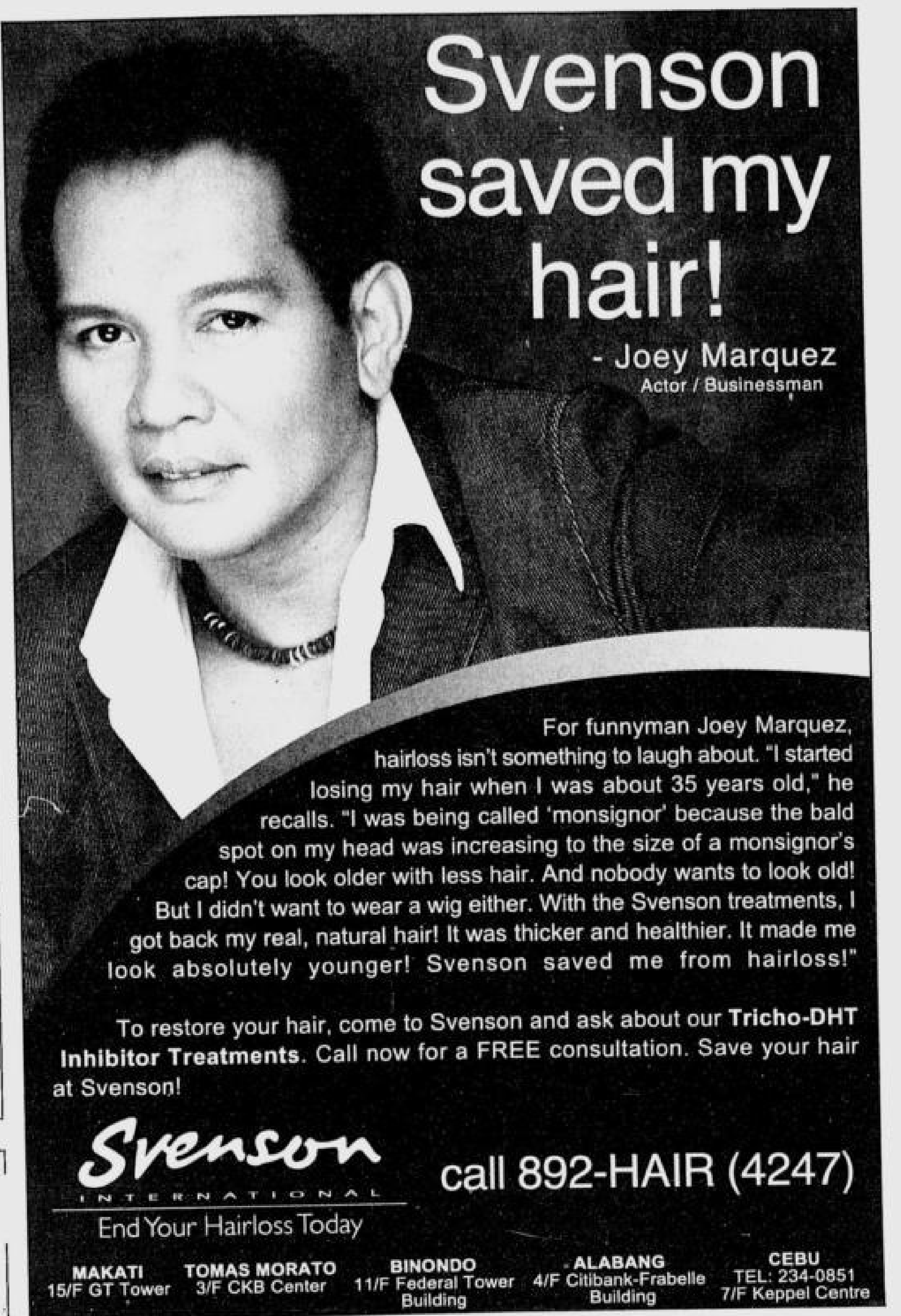

Svenson saved my hair!
- Joey Marquez
Actor / Businessman

For funnyman Joey Marquez, hairloss isn't something to laugh about. "I started losing my hair when I was about 35 years old," he recalls. "I was being called 'monsignor' because the bald spot on my head was increasing to the size of a monsignor's cap! You look older with less hair. And nobody wants to look old! But I didn't want to wear a wig either. With the Svenson treatments, I got back my real, natural hair! It was thicker and healthier. It made me look absolutely younger! Svenson saved me from hairloss!"

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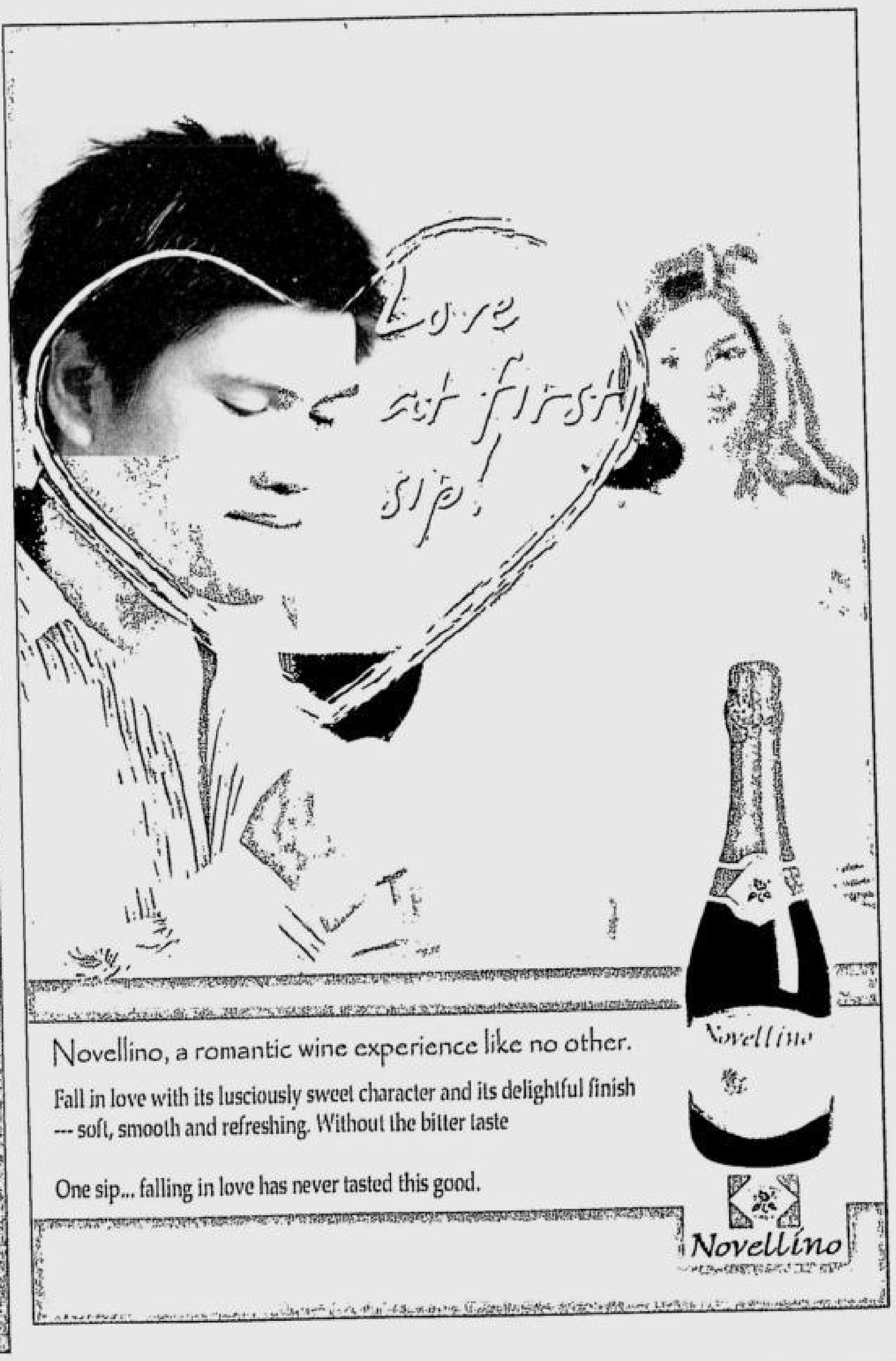

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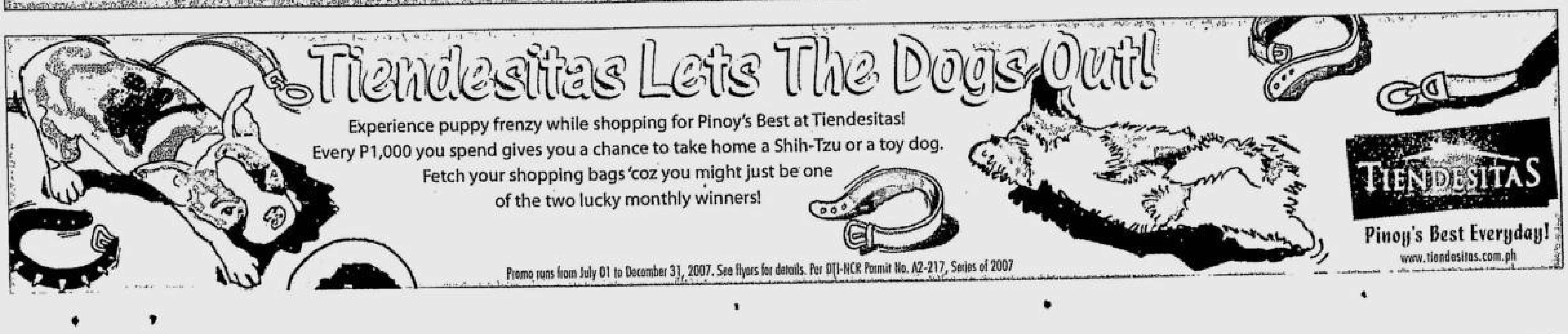

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A totally inspired 'mockumentary'

REVIEW

NEW YORK—WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS now is not another penguin movie, it would seem, following the animated "Happy Feet" and the documentary "March of the Penguins," both Oscar winners, as well as the spoof "Farce of the Penguins" and movies like "Madagascar" in which penguins steal the show.

But "Surf's Up" is so different from its predecessors, and so different from the slew of animated films that have come out in the past couple of years, it's hard not to be charmed.

The movie has a totally inspired vibe: It plays like a Christopher Guest-style mockumentary, complete with deadpan humor, improvised dialogue and hand-held "camera work"—or rather, its CGI equivalent.

Great chemistry

In going behind the scenes at the Big Z Memorial Surf Off on Pen Gu Island, directors and co-writers Chris Buck ("Tarzan") and Ash Brannon ("Toy Story 2") allow us to see a boom mic dipping into the frame, or a shot that's out of focus. We hear off-camera interviewers (Buck and Brannon themselves) ask questions of their subjects and suffer technical issues, and the sensation that we're watching something truly spontaneous provides a giddy thrill.

Shia LaBeouf, however, deviates from the cutesy-hyper delivery you'd expect from the genre as the confident, laid-back voice of Cody Maverick, a young surfer from Antarctica hoping to win the competition. He has great chemistry with Jeff Bridges as Ezekiel "Big Z" Topanga, the reclusive retired legend who becomes his reluctant mentor. Both actors have remarked that they formed an off-screen bond similar to the one their characters share in the film. It shows.

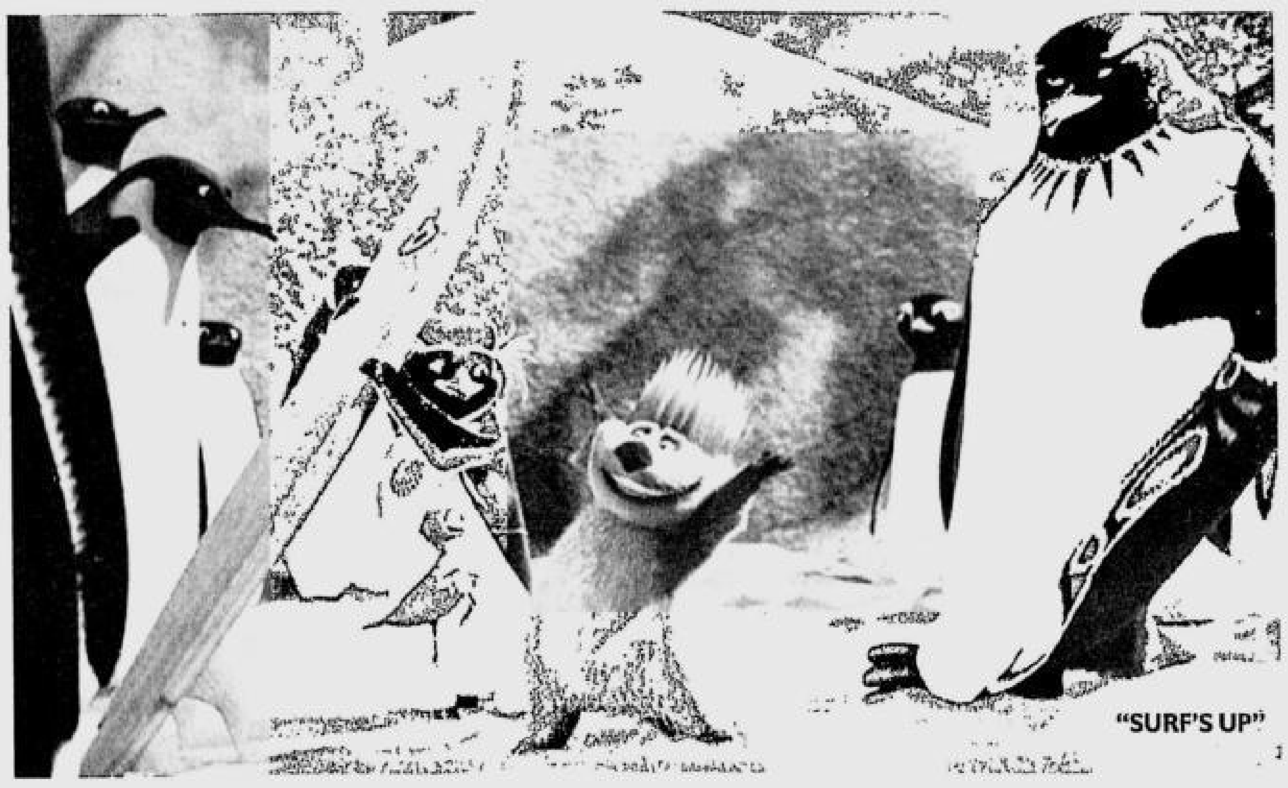
It helps a great deal that they actually recorded their sessions at the same place and the same time, which is a rarity in animation. Usually an actor goes into a booth, says his or her lines alone, and then all the performances are edited together. But because LaBeouf, Bridges and other cast members were able to look at each other, react to each other, talk over each other, their interplay feels more realistic.

Zooey Deschanel is easygoing but likable, as always, as the sarcastic lifeguard who becomes the object of Cody's chaste affections; James Woods is dead-on as the opportunistic surf promoter (with Mario Cantone as his ingratiating assistant); and Jon Heder gets a couple of laughs as Cody's new buddy, Chicken Joe, the only surfer in the Midwestern town of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Other lifelike touches include the great attention to detail in the sunshine and waves, the way the wind blows through the trees or penguin flippers leave prints in the sand. By now those are a given, considering the ever-improving technology that's available. Even more clever, though, is the authentic-looking archive footage of old-school surfers, all faded and grainy, as if it really had been shot in 1964. There's also a great effect in which the supposed camera emerges from underneath a wave with drops of water on the lens. Very cool.

OK, so perhaps some themes in the script (also co-written by Don Rhymer and Christopher Jenkins) are a bit too familiar. Cody is an unknown underdog who, against all odds, finds himself at the front of the competition alongside an arrogant reigning champion (Diedrich Bader). Big Z breaks him of his stubbornness and fierce independence and, in the process, becomes the father figure Cody never realized he needed. And Heder is essentially doing yet another version of his clueless, monotone Napoleon Dynamite character. (We probably could have done without him entirely.)

The fact that LaBeouf can read a line like, "Winners find a way no matter what"—and not sound corny—is emblematic of what makes "Surf's Up" such an enjoyable ride. *AP*


"SURF'S UP"

Knowing that we're watching something spontaneous makes us feel giddy

NY fest heavy on US films

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL announced the lineup for its 45th festival on Wednesday, unveiling a slate heavy on US films.

Among the directors bringing films to the festival: Sidney Lumet ("Before the Devil Knows You're Dead"), Noah Baumbach ("Margot at the Wedding"), Gus Van Sant ("Paranoid Park"), Brian DePalma ("Redacted") and Todd Haynes ("I'm Not There"). John Landis ("Mr. Warmth, The Don Rickles Project"), Ira Sachs ("Married Life"), Julian Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly") and Abel Ferrara ("Go Go Tales") also will showcase their movies.

Wes Anderson's "The Darjeeling Limited" will open the festival, whose centerpiece is the Coen brothers' "No Country for Old Men."

The festival will run Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

Sarajevo event

Meanwhile, The 13th annual Sarajevo film festival opened on Friday with 175 films from some 40 countries.

The nine-day fest kicked off with the world premiere of "It is Hard to be Nice" by Bosnian director Srdjan Vuletic.

The program includes sixteen more world premieres.

The festival was launched by a group of enthusiasts in 1995 during the three-and-a-half-year siege of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces. Despite its troubled beginnings it has become the biggest such event in the Balkans.

AP, AFP

REPEAT VISITOR
Jeremy Segay, Asian programmer of the Cannes International Film Festival Directors' Fortnight Section, visited the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran with his wife Eunseon early this month. Segay was a juror in the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival in July. The couple also visited Intramuros and spent three days in Panglao, Bohol. "Jeremy says he keeps coming back here because the people are so warm," said film producer Robbie Tan, who sent us this photo.

Bae docu wins top fest prize

By Marinel R. Cruz

DONNIE SACUEZA'S "LAWA NG BAE," A documentary on the state of Laguna de Bay, bagged the Grand Charlie Award and a cash prize of P100,000 at the third Moonrise Film Festival, an ongoing cultural and environmental exhibition at the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Nine documentaries shot across the country—from Mt. Province in the north to the Caubian Island in Southern Visayas—competed for the trophy that was handed out in an awards show on Aug. 18.

"Lawa ng Bae," which tells of the present and past problems of Laguna de Bay, as well as the richness and beauty of the neglected lake, also brought home the People's Choice and Best Editing awards. Plus, it received a citation for being "issue-based."

Geraldine Torres-Brillantes was named Best Director for "Sa Ngalan ng Mina," about how politicians "sell" our natural resources to foreign companies.

Ulysses Sison's "Caubian: An Island Under Siege," an investigative video documentary on the practice of blast fishing, over-population, sanitation, livelihood on the island of Caubian, copped the Best Cinematography and Best Storyline trophies.

Ray Defante Gibraltar's "Syokoy," based on a tale told by a fisherman on the island of Naoway, Guimaras about a mythical merman, a sea creature prepared to defend the integrity and beauty of its natural habitat, took home the Best Musical Score award. It was also heralded as this year's Volunteer's Choice awardee.

Culture citation

The citation for Documentary on Culture was given to Golda Mae Pay-ong's "Kalimed," a personal account of a young Kalinga native who has acquired a scholarship to study at the University of Makat.

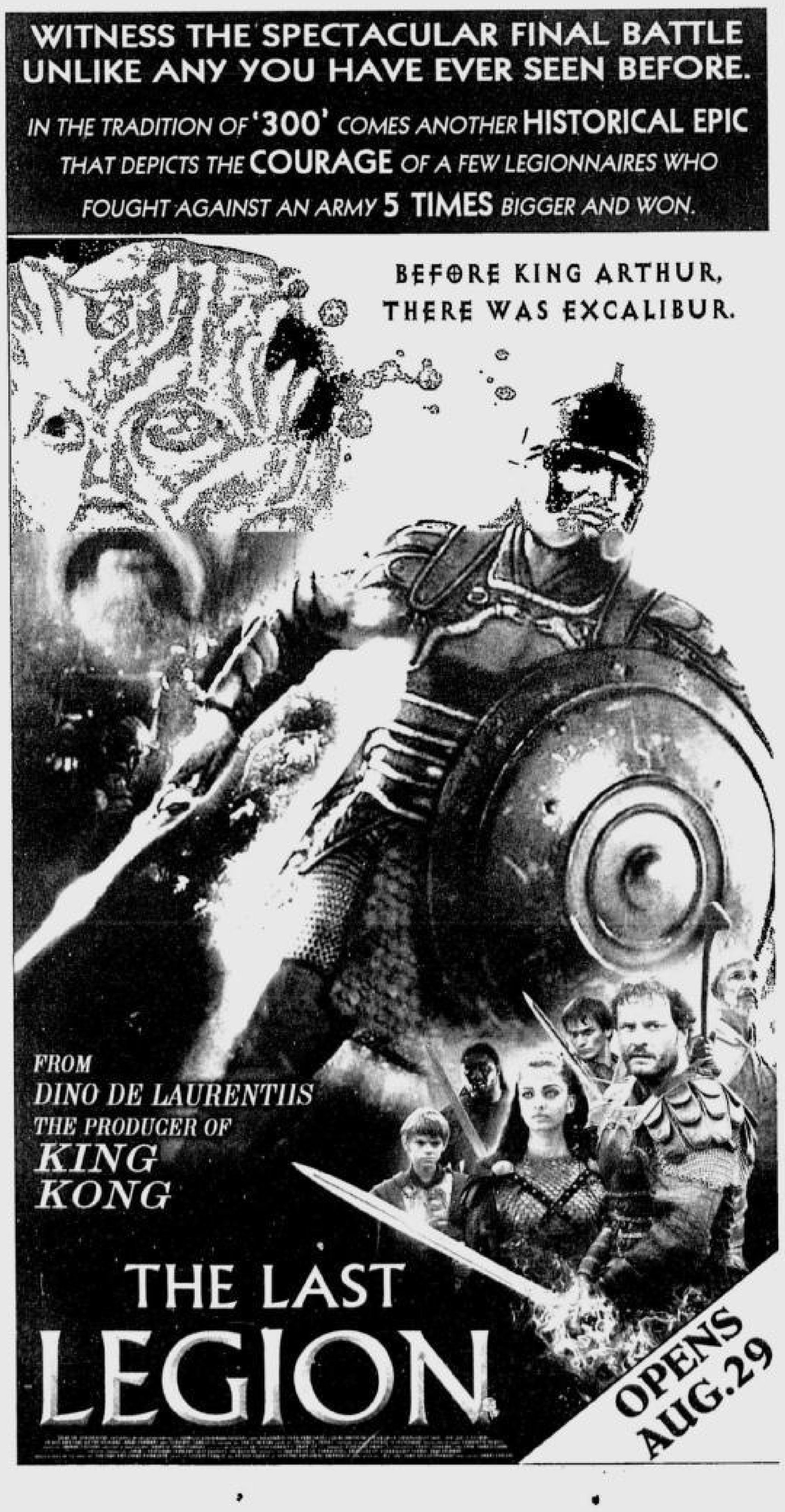
The other films that participated in the competition are "Aramiden: A Glimpse of the City of Pines" (Diane Elizabeth Sipin), "Bodong (Peace Pact)" (Seymour Barros Sanchez), "Where have all the Monkeys Gone?" (Mabel Batong) and "Our World in a Changing Climate," (Maria Ernestine Tamana).

The Moonrise film fest aims not only to increase environmental awareness and to promote critical thinking, but also to expose the growing number of Filipino talents in documentary filmmaking.

The festival is organized by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE) in cooperation with Ford Conservation and Environmental Grants, with the help of the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC).

The CEAE is a non-profit organization that promotes environmental awareness and education through documentary film making and teacher training, among others.

After making the documentary "Children of the Mountains" in 2005, the CEAE decided to embark on creating the country's first ever environmental documentary film fest. By creating a venue, the CEAE hoped to encourage filmmakers to turn their cameras toward conservation and cultural issues.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Movie hits and misses

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EACH WEEK, SOME SIX NEW FOReign and local films open in town, all of them hoping to catch viewers' fancy. Alas, the cinematic universe is at best an imperfect one, so only a few productions end up pleasing the public.

One movie that did hit the spot recently was the animated feature "Ratatouille." The comedy about cooks and kooks clicked with viewers because of its inspiring story about a mouse and a scullery slave who achieved their "impossible" dream of becoming acclaimed chefs.

Also hugely appealing was the film's visual look, which was as light and yummy as its theme and story.

The on-target characterization of its principal protagonists and antagonists similarly made it easy for audiences to empathize with them and care about how their individual stories ended.

Less on the up-and-up was "License to Wed," despite the fact that it had bankable names like **Robin Williams** and **Mandy Moore** on its cast.

Cynical humor

The problem appeared to be the excessively negative and even sadistic depiction of Williams' character, a pastor who made it very hard for affianced couples to actually get married.

This was due to the fact that he required them to take a "course" to see if they were mature and prepared enough to become good spouses and parents.

The premise was sort of funny, but the movie implemented it so rigorously that the potential fun flew out of the window. What was left was a lot of cynical humor and grueling tests.

Whatever happened to comedy's requisite lightness of touch? The comedy here sometimes felt like it was delivered by a sledgehammer.

Williams is usually a droll performer, but he came off too viciously in this production. Yes, his character meant well, but Mandy and her fiance were put through too much of a wringer for humor to survive.

Fun trip

As for "Rush Hour 3," it has **Jacky Chan** and **Chris Tucker** trying to unmask the world's top crime bosses, and their mission takes them all the way up the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

It's a fun trip enlivened by many chase and fight sequences that are wittily "choreographed." After a while, however, all that jumping and running around end up as too hectic by half.

Still, the comedic rapport between Chan and Tucker is delightful to behold, and helps keep their new movie viewable even when its fight scenes end up quoting each other.

Tucker's jivey performance style makes Chan come off in comparison as an Asian curmudgeon. But Chan makes up for the slack in the film's culminating Eiffel Tower "martial-acrobatics" sequences, where his signature death-defying stunts are showcased.

True again, the finale eventually feels stretched-out, but it has enough exciting moments to end more with a bang than a whimper.

No contest

Let's end with a critical hit: "The Lookout" is a gritty crime drama about a mentally impaired young hero (**Joseph Gordon-Levitt**) eaten up by guilt, thus becoming an easy prey for a gang of bank robbers who convince him to allow them to rob the bank where he works as a night janitor.

The protagonist's pitiful vulnerability makes the story look like a no-contest situation. But it ends on an upbeat note, as it shows how, despite his many incapacities, the former sports hero learns to fight back—and becomes an even bigger idol in his community's eyes.

The storytelling is taut and acutely realistic, but the movie's best suit is Gordon-Levitt's portrayal of its flawed protagonist. He comes across like a young **Keanu Reeves** completely up to the many dramatic challenges his complex role throws at him.

How bracing to see that, in a season of misses, an unheralded actor like Joseph Gordon-Levitt can turn out to be an unqualified hit.

DID YOU KNOW...

Independent by Nature award

ASPEN, Colorado—Actress Julie Christie will receive the Independent by Nature Award at the 29th annual Aspen Filmfest next month, for "individualism and creative risk-taking." Previous recipients include Harrison Ford, Michael Douglas, Anjelica Huston and William H. Macy. *AP*

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RUSH HOUR 3	1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
RISE	1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45
RATATOUILLE	1:55 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25
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3	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
4	RISE	12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
5	A LOVE STORY	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30

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	2	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	3	RUSH HOUR 3
	4	A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1	A LOVE STORY
	2	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	3 THX	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE LOOKOUT
	5	SURF'S UP
	6	RUSH HOUR 3
	7	THE SIMPSONS
GREENBELT 1	1	A LOVE STORY
	2	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	RUSH HOUR 3 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	RATATOUILLE GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	2	A LOVE STORY
	3	RUSH HOUR 3
	4	SURF'S UP
	5	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	2	RUSH HOUR 3
	3	A LOVE STORY
	4	SURF'S UP
MARKET! MARKET!	1	A LOVE STORY
	2	SURF'S UP
	3	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	4	RISE
	5	RUSH HOUR 3
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1	A LOVE STORY
	2	RATATOUILLE
	3	RISE GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	RUSH HOUR 3
	6	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
	7 THX	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS

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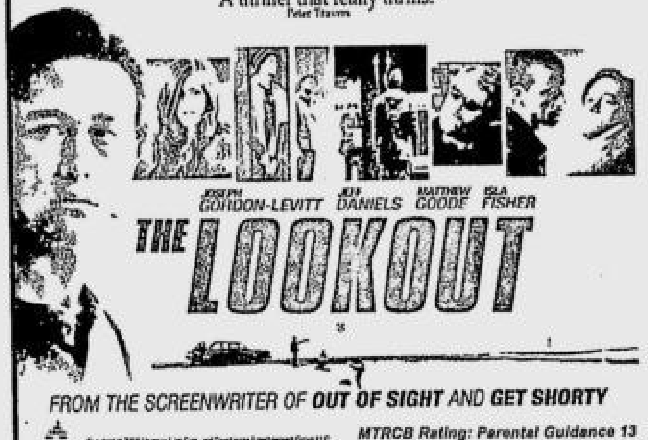

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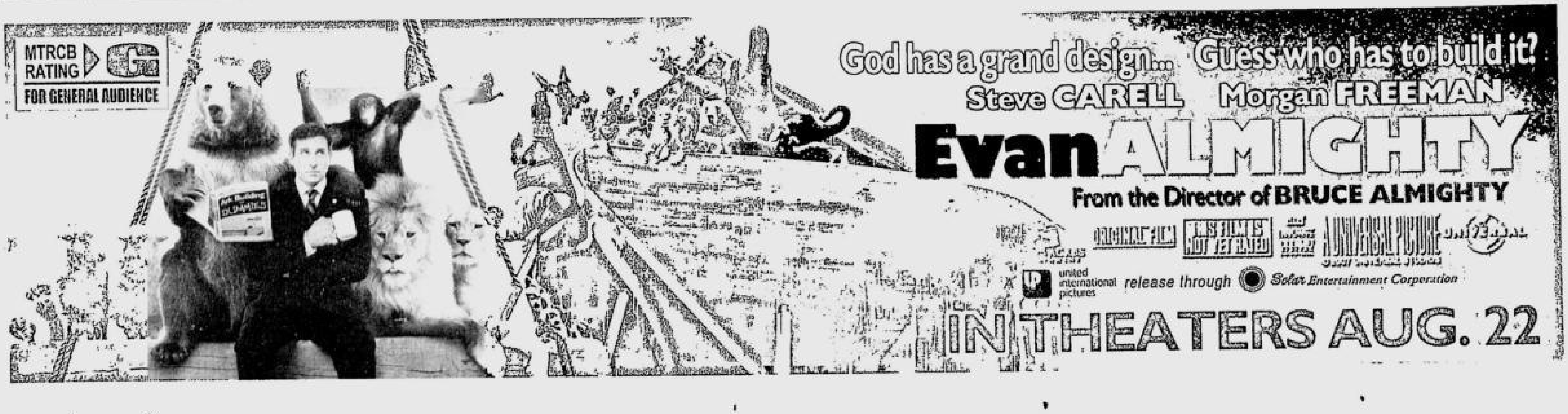

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The indie roundtable talks

AURAEUS SOLITO

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

> 'Ang hirap i-*explain sa* foreigners *kung ano ang* Philippine cinema. *Lagi ko silang pinagsasabihan na pwede itong iba sa alam nila'*

JIM LIBIRAN

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE FILIPINO FILM industry may still be struggling after all these years, but a new movement has vigorously made itself felt.

Independent filmmaking, or making movies without the financial resources of a big company, is the bright alternative that has produced a growing number of celebrated works by young idealists driven by a desire to tell fresh and unique stories.

Two of these Young Turks, Auraeus Solito and Jim Libiran, visited the INQUIRER recently to take part in a roundtable discussion on the lively Pinoy indie film scene.

Int'l acclaim

Solito earned acclaim as director of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," a film about friendship between a policeman and an adolescent gay that won Best Feature Film and Best Picture awards in several international festivals, notably in Berlin, Montreal, Toronto and Singapore.

"Pagdadalaga" holds the distinction of being one of the few local digital films released in 2005 that did well at the box office.

Solito's latest film, "Pisay," a semi-autobiographical tribute to his alma mater, Philippine Science High School, won for him the Best Director award in the recent Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

Palanca winner

Libiran turned "Tribu," his Palanca-winning script about the new gangs of Tondo, into a full-length film which won Best Picture and Best Actor awards also in Cinemalaya.

"Tribu" likewise won for its cast of real-life gang members the Best Actor trophy in the Cinemanila Film Festival.

At the roundtable talks, Solito spoke of the importance of going back to one's roots and fully knowing one's subject in making a film. He also discussed the difficulty of explaining what Philippine cinema is during his travels as a participant in international film fests.

Libiran bared the hardships of running short on funds while shooting "Tribu," as well the current problem of distributing his film.

But both expressed hope and optimism that they're doing something right.

Three questions

The roundtable participants were asked to answer three questions: 1) What am I doing right; 2) How am I doing it; and 3) How can I do better.

Apart from Solito and Libiran, the discussants were Fil-Am director Gene Cajayon; actors Gina Pareño, Cherry Pie Picache and Irma Adlawan; and post-production specialists David Jucom and Arleeen Cuevas.

We start here with the insights of Solito and Libiran.

***

Aureus Solito: Tell stories that you understand

"Among the many film festivals I attended last year, my favorite is the imagiNATIVE Film Festival, which is for indigenous communities. I have indigenous Palawanon blood.

"In that festival, I got some of the best reactions, very sincere reactions, to my films, 'Basal Banar' (my first documentary, on Palawan), 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros,' and 'Tuli.' I'm trying to follow the path of my ancestors. When I was doing 'Basal Banar,' I asked my mother to translate Palawanon documentaries for me. I couldn't understand the language because I had grown up in the city.

"*Ano ang naintindihan ko? Lumaki ako sa* Sampaloc. *Sa* Gipit Street, Sampaloc, Manila, *kasama ang mga siga, mga tindera. Naintindihan ko kung pa'no magkamalay, pa'no ma-*in love *sa isang* military officer *noong* high school."

The right way

"*Minsan hinanap ko ang tribo ng aking mga ninuno at nakita ko yung mga katotohanan. At minsan din, dumaan ako sa mga lugar na hindi karaniwang nakikita ng tao. Dumaan din ako sa pagiging* scholar *ng* Philippine Science High School.

"*Ano ba ang tamang paraan sa paggawa ng pelikula? Siguro ang tamang paraan ay 'yung sabihin mo ang naintindihan mo. Bumalik ka sa pinanggalingan mo. Ipakita mo ang kinalakihan mo.*

"The danger in attending film festivals abroad is, you get spoiled. You get to see many films that are being accepted internationally and you say, '*Eto yung mga* style *na dapat gawin.'*

"*Ang hirap i-*explain *sa* foreigners *kung ano ang* Philippine cinema. *Pinipilit nilang ganito dapat ang* Philippine cinema. *Lagi ko silang pinagsasabihan na pwede tayong* indigenous, *at pwede ring iba sa alam nila.*

"Nang mapanood nila ang "Pisay," *akala nila* fiction, because they couldn't believe there is actually a Philippine Science High School. They said, 'Oh, it's a real school!'

"*Magka-tribu tayo. Magtulungan tayo.* We're here to do great cinema, hopefully. *Wala pa tayo sa kalingkinan ng mga kaya nating gawin. Marami pa tayong matutunang mas maganda.*"

* * *

Jim Libiran: The Nora Aunor dream is still the Filipino dream

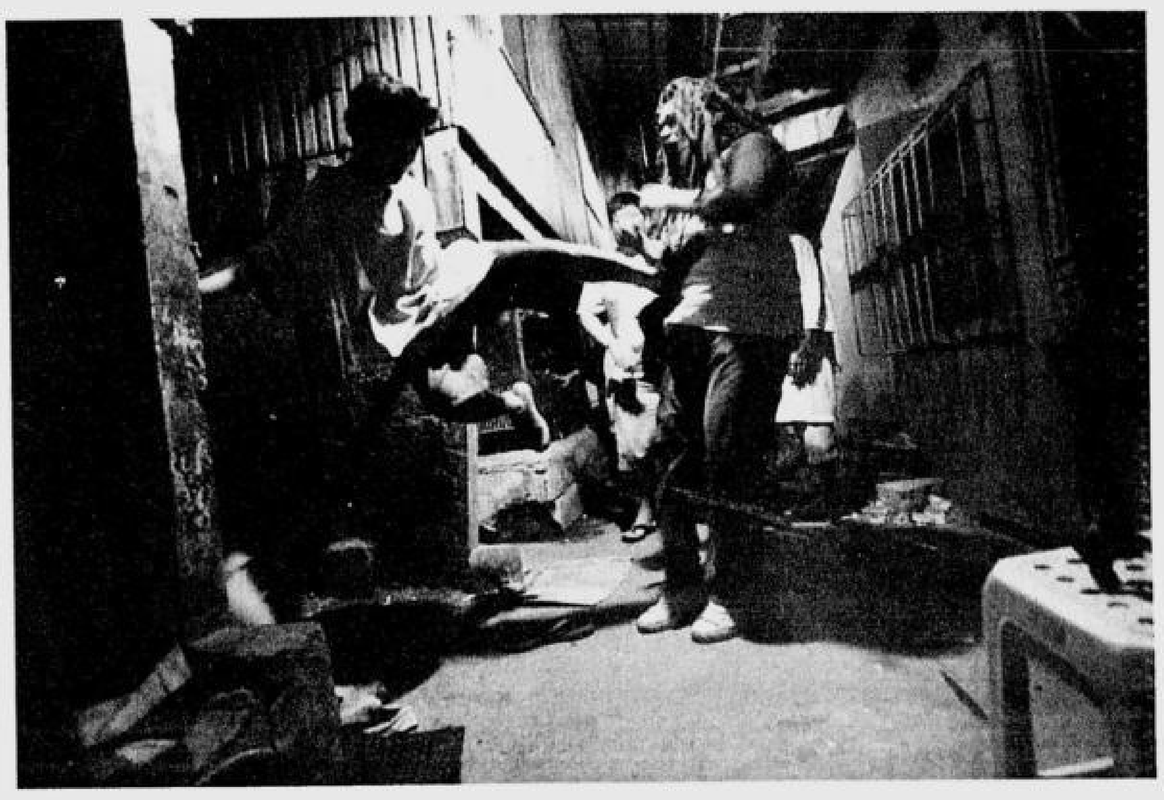
"I think *ganito rin ang dinaanan ng ibang sumali sa* Cinemalaya. We thought we'd be given a lot of money to do our films. At least, *magtitipid ka lang*, cut some corners. *Hindi pala.* Ang projected budgetng 'Tribu' was P1.7 million. *Ang na-*receive ko *lang*, P500,000.

"*Doon ko nalaman na* the whole Cinemalaya experience teaches you that you have to be very good *sa* craft *mo*, and at the same time realize that your craft is also a business. *Paano nila pina-*realize *sa amin yon? Nangutang kami. 'Yung iba may* producer *sa likod.* Actually, *'yung* producer *ko sa likod, tumakbo sa kalagitnaan.*

Since we are building a new industry, *sana matanggal na 'yung* vestiges *ng* old industry *na nabuhay sa intrigahan.*"

No food

"In the middle of doing my film, *kinakapos kami sa pambili ng pagkain.* Late *kasi 'yung* schedule *ng labas ng tseke.* But everytime you shoot, *kailangan mong gumastos. Magpapakain ka ng tao, pang-*taxi *ng mga tao. Sa* 10 years of experience *ko sa diyaryo pati du'n sa mga* racket *ko sa labas na nagtatayo kami ng diyaryo sa mga* NGOs, *hindi namin naranasan yung ganoon.*



"TRIBU"

"Ibang klaseng animal *ang* filmmaking.

Everybody is 'infected' with the dream of doing something great. *Tama 'yung* premise *na* the Filipino dream is Pepot Artista *at napatunayan ko siya kahit sa mga* hardened thugs *ng* Tondo. *Ang poster na ginawa ko bago i-*shoot ang 'Tribu' ay, 'Miyembro ka ba ng gang? Gusto mo bang mag-artista?'

Community

"*Ang dumating,* 52—*lahat miyembro ng gang. 'Siga ka ba?' 'Oo siga ako.' 'Gusto mo bang mag-artista?' 'Oo gusto kong mag-artista.'*

"The Filipino dream is still the Nora Aunor dream. To rise from poverty. *Kasi, parang* from poverty to popularity, you are passed from one hand to another. *Parang inuluklok ka ng sariling* community *mo.* So *'yun ang* feeling *nu'ng mga bata nu'ng nanalo kami ng* Best Film (Cinemalaya 2007).

"*Natutunan ko sa* Cinemalaya *'yung* business part. *Sa* TV *kahit anong ipalabas, i-*gobble up *ng tao.* We don't have to sell it as hard, *katulad ng pelikula. Para akong merong* party *gabi-gabi nu'ng sa* Cinemalaya. *Umaga pa lang,* first screening *ko,* 10 a.m., *nandoon ako.* But before that, I had spent *hanggang* 6 a.m. *sa* Multiply *at* Friendster e-mailing people. *Meron akong naka-*chat, *taga-*New Jersey *pala. Di raw siya makakarating sa CCP.*

"*Imbitado kami ngayon sa mga* universities *sa* Baguio, Ilocos, Bacolod, Davao, Cebu. *Sabi ko, 'Paano kung hindi tayo makakuha ng* MTRCB permit, *hindi natin madadala sa* malls.' *Ang sagot sa akin, 'Dito ho kayo sa* universities *magpapalabas.'"*

NATHAN Lopez as Maximo Oliveros

The target

"*Ang* target *talaga ng* 'Tribu' *ay 'yung mga hindi nakarating sa eskwela. Karamihan ng mga taga-*Tondo *at 'yung ibang mga* hip-hop *ay hindi nakarating sa eskwela. Nu'ng una akong binigyan ng* CD *ng mga taga-*Tondo, gangsta-rap, *pinatugtog ko sa kotse ko nang malakas. Pagdating ko sa* stoplight, *'yung dalawang bata na nagtutulak ng kariton sumabay ng* rap.

"*Kinuwento ko kay* Popong Landero *noong* Manila Reggae Summit. *Sabi ko,* 'Popong, *ayaw kitang imbitahing manood kási* reggae *ka e.' Pero sabi ni* Popong, '*Sa* Davao, *merong* seven years old *na pulubi kakalabitin ka, 'Manong pwedeng humingi ng pangkain, mag-ra-*rap *ako sa harap mo.'*

"*Ang daming taong nagugulat na ganito pala 'yung* rap *sa* Tondo. *Simula pa lang ho 'yan.* The rappers have been churning out so much good poetry *na itinatago nila. Pero unang tutok ko pa lang, lumabas na. Hindi ko alam kung ano ang naghihintay sa amin pag naglakbay kami sa* provinces, *pero sinabihan na ako ng mga taga-*Baguio. *Sabi nila, 'Ang mga* hip-hop *dito mahirap at mayaman.*

Many Tondos

From Brent *hanggang doon sa mga taga-*Banaue *at* Ifugao.'

"*Sabi ko,* 'Ifugao *na* hip-hop, *ibang klase 'yun 'di ba?' 'Yun ang nakikita namin. Tama yung pakiramdam namin, maraming* Tondo *sa mundo.*

"*Ang* freestyle rap, *parang* Balagtasan, *kung anong* topic *ang ibigay mo, i-ra-*rap *nila. Sabi nga ni* Teo Antonio, *na isang* prince *ng* Balagtasan *at nag-*cameo appearance *sa* 'Tribu,' *narinig niya 'yung mga batang nag-*rap *at nag-*tongue twist *sa harap niya sa isang* topic *na binigay niya na napakahirap. Sabi niya, 'Tumula ka nga rito tungkol sa dilaw.' Ni-*rap *sa kanya ng anim na bata. Sabi ni* Teo, 'Ang bagal ko pala.'

"Two hundred words per minute. And to think *na* high school dropouts *sila. Uma-*attend *sila sa* UP *ngayon ng isang* poetry class. *Ang nakakaharap nila mga taga-*La Salle, Miriam, Ateneo. And the Tondo boys are at the top of that class. *Hindi na sa akin nanggaling 'yun. 'Yung* magic *na nagsama-sama kayo at binigyan mo sila ng tiwala.*

* * *

(On Wednesday: Indie actors.)

"PISAY"

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JENNIFER Aniston

SCARLETT Johansson

DREW Barrymore

CASTING COUP

LOS ANGELES—Scarlett Johansson is set to join Jennifer Aniston and Drew Barrymore in a new romantic comedy, entertainment press reported on Friday. Shooting on the film, "He's Just Not That Into You" gets underway towards the end of the year, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Johansson, 22, will play a yoga instructor embroiled in an affair with a married man, echoing her role in Woody Allen's drama "Match Point" in 2005. AFP

Singing champ comes home

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULACAN RESIdents and officials welcomed home last week an 11-year-old girl from this city who topped the junior division in the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) held recently at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

Aria Daniella Clemente bested 5,000 contestants from 52 countries.

5 medals

The Grade 6 pupil of Stella Maris Academy here also bagged the "Performer of the World" award, junior category, and "Vocalist of the World" honors.

Aria reached the finals after securing five medals and plaques in the two rounds of the competition. Her winning pieces: "I Believe I Can Fly" (pop category), "Don't Rain On My Parade" (Broadway), "Mas Que Nada" (Latin), and "Some

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After switching to Sun, JRS Express saved at least 50% on calls and texts. "Malaki ang savings namin sa Sun," says Milady, VP - Branches / Treasurer.

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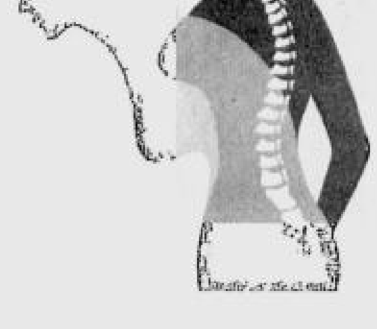

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Something 'never fails' to make this

From "Chi" (certifiedkassyhole@hotmail.com), Quezon City:

The Entertainment Roundup never fails to make me laugh! It's one of the things that I look forward to every Sunday, apart from SIM and Junior Inquirer. Yes I still read JI. I am 20 years old, but I've been a JI baby since fourth grade.

Anyway, what I like about Roundup is the frankness. *Parang 'yung eksakto lang na dapat malaman ng* readers about show biz issues. The fun part is the side comments that you guys add to the tabloid headlines. *Ang kulit* and, *'ika nga ng isang* beauty queen, "No holes barred." :) *Kuhang-kuha ang* reaction *naming mga* readers. *Magaling,*

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2 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SURF'S UP

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RUSH HOUR - 3
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 RUSH HOUR - 3
4 SURF'S UP

THEATRES
(Pampanga) Telephone No. (044) 600-5025
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SPIRIT TRAP

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 SURF'S UP
6 RUSH HOUR - 3
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 OUIJA
9 RATATOUILLE
10 RISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DOLBY) SURFS UP
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 A LOVE STORY
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA
3 CASA
4 THREE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURSF UP
3 RUSH HOUR - 3

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURSF UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 SURSF UP
4 A LOVE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3
2 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY) SURSF UP
4 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SURSF UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 OUIJA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) CASA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OUIJA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 PREMONITION
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 796.3320
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) SURFS UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 OUIJA
2 MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
3 SALAT SA LIGAYA
4 LICENSE TO WED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
3 SURF'S UP
4 OUIJA
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CASA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 SURF'S UP

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MOLATA
2 HAYOP SA PORMA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	A LOVE STORY 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10	PG-13
2	BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 11:05	PG-13
3	SURF'S UP 1:00, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:50	G
4	RUSH HOUR 3 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

① BOURNE ULTIMATUM MTRCB PG-13 11:00, 1:45 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
② A LOVE STORY MTRCB PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
③ BOURNE ULTIMATUM MTRCB PG-13 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
④ RUSH HOUR 3 MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE SURF'S UP (GP) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM 10:30, 1:15, 4:05 6:55, 9:45 PG-13
CINEMA 2 RISE 11:50, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 8:50 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SURFS UP 10:45, 12:40, 2:35 4:30, 6:25, 8:20 10:15 GP
CINEMA 4 RUSH HOUR 3 10:35, 12:35, 2:35 4:35, 6:35, 8:35 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM 11:05, 1:55, 4:45 7:35, 10:30 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
	September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Aug. 18, 24, 31, Sept. 7, 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Aug. 15, 22, 30, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

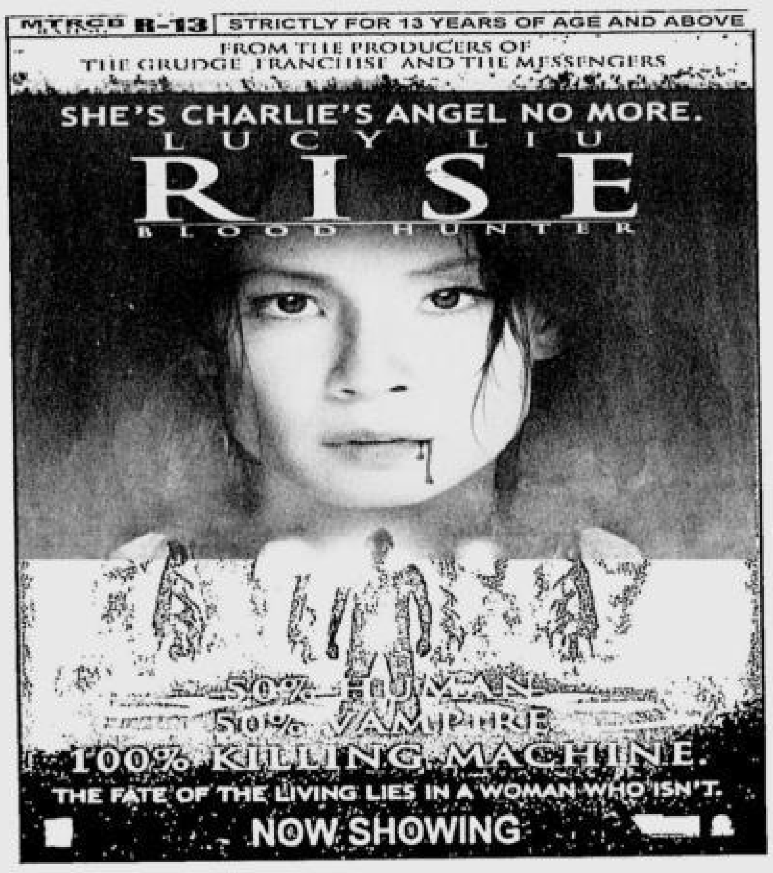
THE #1 MOVIE NATIONWIDE!
ONE KICKS HARD...THE OTHER TALKS FAST
PERFECT COMBINATION
FROM BRETT RATNER THE DIRECTOR OF "X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND"
3RD WEEK
JACKIE CHAN
CHRIS TUCKER
RUSH HOUR 3

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	A LOVE STORY PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10
SURF'S UP G 1:00,3:00,5:00, 7:00,9:00	SURF'S UP G 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00	BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE


FROM THE PRODUCERS OF THE GRUDGE FRANCHISE AND THE MESSENGERS
SHE'S CHARLIE'S ANGEL NO MORE.
LUCY LIU
RISE
BLOOD HUNTER
50% HUMAN
50% VAMPIRE
100% KILLING MACHINE.
THE FATE OF THE LIVING LIES IN A WOMAN WHO ISN'T.
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL AUDIENCE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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$108,679,524
TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007
THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL
John Travolta
Michelle Pfeiffer
Amanda Bynes
Zac Efron
James Marsden
and Queen Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Brittany Snow
Christopher Walken
Elijah Kelley
Allison Janney
introducing Nikki Blonsky

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

reader laugh

ling, magaling! Keep it up, yo! ou mean Rushes? But you're fun-!)

Juday

Eva Pabalan (evapabalan@ya-om), Dubai, UAE:

dmire Judy Ann Santos' acting and the life she has right now. been in the biz since she was but, unlike Angel Locsin, I've heard her say she was tired. Also, is stayed with her network for so years now. This lady is made of stuff. Angel should learn some is from Juday.

FEEDBACK

she's a or

: Carmi ligma i_mandgma mail.com), alupe Nuevo, ti City:

n 49 years old and I know a bad when I see one. Before GMA 7, Locsin was a nobody. The station her up and gave her the wings atively and almost literally) that is used to fly high. But right now about to use those wings to help entors' rival network. I am not that she should not have left. But t Angel should have properly in-d GMA 7 of her plan when they her about it. It's one thing to be a, another to be *traydor*. Angel is both. She should change her name to something that better her. The mere sight of her pictures days makes me feel bad. And I am en a Kapuso.

t Pops, Martin

Jennie (jennie111@yahoo Boston, Ma., USA:

tin and Katrina have been very sive about recent events that we ow about by now. I guess when e the guilty party, you do tend to your way to protect yourself.

y should be grateful that, nine ago, Pops kept quiet and did not ut to destroy their characters , I guess, she had every right to

have all been nice enough to for-Martin for his shortcomings, but imes people just don't change. In seems he and Katrina are proud t they have done!

d to be a Martin and Pops No. 1 fan. But after their separation, my loyalty stayed with Pops. Martin and Katrina have destroyed and damaged a happy family. They should know better than to flaunt adultery. Filipinos value decency. I just wish Martin could be more sensitive to Pops' feelings.

Singing champ …

From page G1

body To Love" and "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" (gospel).

Aria, fifth placer in ABS-CBN's "Little Big Superstar" tilt last February, is the only child of Jonnel, a guitarist and vocalist of a local band and Maria Theresa, a telephone firm employee. The girl said she realized she could sing when she was just six years old.

Music school

Her parents had named Aria after her father's guitar brand, the Aria Pro Solo.

Jonnel and Theresa said they planned to put up a music school to hone young talents in Bulacan as a way of sharing their blessings. · *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

If anyone can cook …

From page G4

Potts is a Renaissance man who believes opera is still worth tripping on today since, just like film, it's basically story-telling but only more elaborate and dramatic.

But the most inspiring thing about Potts is that he started getting into opera as a solace from getting bullied in school. And that he kept on learning more about the music until he had the confidence to sing on stage.

If the message in the movie "Ratatouille" is that anyone can cook, what Potts is saying in "One Chance" is anyone can sing—provided he's driven enough to seize the opportunities that present themselves.

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WILL FERRELL
JON HEDER
BLADES of GLORY

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

BLADES of GLORY

"Improbably Hilarious"
- The Wall Street Journal

"Fast, light, frequently funny comedy"
- The New York Times

"Puts a goofy smile on your face"
- The Hollywood Reporter

Blades of Glory is a comedic farce that takes on the world of figure skating. The film stars Will Ferrel (*Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*) as Chazz Michaels and Jon Heder (*Benchwarmers*) as Jimmy MacElroy, two competitive figure skaters who, banned from competing in the men's single competition a few years back, are convinced to compete in the pairs skating category - with each other!

Watch how Chazz and Jimmy pull it off and win the coveted championship exclusively at your favorite SM Cinemas nationwide.

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Special Thanks to: SM SKATING RINK

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
HARRY POTTER 5 4:00PM 8:30PM
T-REX 2:30PM 7:00PM
ANT BULLY 12:30PM
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 BLADES OF GLORY
5 RISE
6 A LOVE STORY

PREMIERE CINEMA
A LOVE STORY
CENTERSTAGE
RUSH HOUR 3
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BOURNE ULTIMATUM
CINEMA 2
A LOVE STORY
633-8976
For ticket reservation, dial 6338976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 A LOVE STORY
6 RISE
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 RUSH HOUR 3
9 OUIJA
10 SURF'S UP
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 A LOVE STORY

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 OUIJA
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 RATATOUILLE
8 RISE
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 A LOVE STORY
11 SIMPSONS MOVIE
12 BLADES OF GLORY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 RATATOUILLE
6 RISE
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 A LOVE STORY
9 OUIJA
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RATATOUILLE
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RISE
7 BLADES OF GLORY
8 HARRY POTTER 5
9 OUIJA
10 SURF'S UP

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
5 SURF'S UP
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OUIJA
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 RUSH HOUR 3
7 SURF'S UP
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RISE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RISE
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THREE
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BLADES OF GLORY
9 RATATOUILLE
10 OUIJA
11 SURF'S UP
12 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

movietime Fresh New Movie

From the creators of "Open Season" comes another animated movie about a teenage penguin and his dream of becoming a big wave in the world of surfing.

"Surf's Up" rides on the reality bandwagon, as it chronicles the life of a teenage penguin named Cody Maverick, from his humble beginnings atShiverpool, Antartica to his trip to Pen Gu Island for the much-anticipated Big Z Memorial Surf Off. There he meets personalities such as Sheboygan surfer Chicken Joe, promoter Reggie Belafonte, talent scout Mikey Abromowitz, and spirited lifeguard Lani Aliikai, who all believe in his great talent waiting to be developed.

Cody believes that the immense success will make him get everything he deserves, but this mentality changes when he meets a senior surfer along the way.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB Rating: G (All Ages Admitted)

COLUMBIA PICTURES · SONY PICTURES animation

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RISE
7 OUIJA
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 OUIJA
4 LICENSE TO WED
5 A LOVE STORY
6 BLADES OF GLORY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BLADES OF GLORY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 OUIJA
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 LICENSE TO WED
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 A LOVE STORY

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 SINKING OF JAPAN
2 BLADES OF GLORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 A LOVE STORY
2 FRACTURE/ A LOVE STORY
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 BLADES OF GLORY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SURF'S UP
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 OUIJA
5 BLADES OF GLORY
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 A LOVE STORY/ BLADES OF GLORY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 RESERVED
8 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SURF'S UP
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX:P160 130 Indie Sine:100 632-9116

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM • THX
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 A LOVE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL
12:00 2:05 4:25 6:45 8:15

4 SURF'S UP
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 RUSH HOUR 3
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 RISE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 RATATOUILLE
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

9 OUIJA
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

NOW SHOWING!

Kayong dalawa na... bubuksan pa ba sa iba?
MORENO
BRONZE

CRISALDO PABLO'S

MORENO

Kayong dalawa na... Bubuksan pa ba sa iba?

Don't miss this PROVOCATIVE film about BISEXUALS who fall in love! From Cris Pablo, director of Queer FilmS like DUDA, BATHHOUSE and METLOGS!

Exclusive @ IndieSine, ROBINSONS MANILA

MOONRISE
an environmental documentary
FILMFEST
2007
This is our country.
Tell our story.

AUGUST 15 to 21
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 OUIJA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 SURF'S UP
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 RUSH HOUR 3
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00

5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

6 RISE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 MORENO
1:00 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100/P110 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 A LOVE STORY
12:35 3:15 5:55 8:35

2 A LOVE STORY
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

3 A LOVE STORY
10:25 1:05 3:45 6:25

4 RATATOUILLE 11:00 1:05 3:10
OUIJA 5:20 7:15 9:10

5 RISE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 RUSH HOUR 3
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
11:00 1:25 3:50 6:20 9:00

8 SURF'S UP
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3234 / 935-3229-30

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RISE
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 OUIJA

PIONEER Ticket Price P100 687-6378

1 A LOVE STORY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

3 RUSH HOUR 3
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

4 SURF'S UP
12:25 2:30 4:35 6:40 8:40

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P90 (043) 312-5870

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING of JAPAN
4 CASA

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 SURF'S UP
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3

ANGELES Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2345

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STROY
3 LICENSE to WED
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1 A LOVE STORY
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1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OSS 117 / A LOVE STORY
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If anyone can cook, anyone can sing

By Pocholo Concepcion

REVIEW

PAUL POTTS NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD.

Days after winning in Simon Cowell's new search-for-a-star show, "Britain's Got Talent," the 37-year-old singer was in the studio recording his debut album.

Potts was given a free hand on the choice of songs. He even had the London Symphony Orchestra to back him up. But the album, "One Chance" (Sony BMG), doesn't sound rushed to capitalize on Potts' newfound fame. Not at all.

His preferred music, in the first place, is classical. Prior to his victory, Potts was a member of an amateur opera company for which he had notched a number of stage performances. He had also taken opera singing lessons in Italy, where he was chosen as one of the best students and made to perform—with Luciano Pavarotti in the audience.

Audition piece

The material in "One Chance" consists mostly of opera classics. "Nessun Dorma," which opens the album, is from Puccini's "Turandot." It was Potts' audition piece for "Britain's Got Talent," which he also sang in the finals. Hearing Potts for the first time on CD, it's not difficult to understand why Cowell and the TV audience were reportedly moved to tears.

PAUL POTTS
ONE CHANCE

Never mind if all the songs are in Italian. Likewise, it's not important to know whether Potts is a tenor or what kind of operatic singing style he employs. Because in the second track, "Time to Say Goodbye" ("Con Te Partiro"), the emotive power of his voice, enhanced by the orchestra's mood-inducing accompaniment, captures precisely what the song is trying to convey—the sadness of parting ways.

Potts' other choices in his 10-track CD is pretty interesting. "Amapola," though it sounds like staple opera stuff, was a number one pop tune covered by the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra in the 1940s. What probably caught Potts' attention was its instrumental version in the film "Once Upon A Time in America."

Biggest surprise

But most surprising is Potts' Italian version of "Everybody Hurts"—one of several hits from REM's "Automatic for the People" album. Although it's no big deal these days for opera singers to cover pop songs, this one's a choice that connects with the material's youthful content (teenage suicide).

The rest of the lineup may be considered a good way to persuade both opera and non-opera fans that Potts' talent is formidable and yet accessible.

Most inspiring

A day or two of listening to "Caruso" (about the famous Italian tenor and a favorite piece of Pavarotti), "Nella Fantasia" (from the film "The Mission"), "You Raise Me Up" (popularized by Josh Groban), "My Way" (yes, an operatic version of the karaoke standard fare), "Cavatina" and "Music of the Night" (from "Phantom of the Opera") can brighten one's mood and rekindle interest in the finer things in life. (Better, of course, if one had the time and money to study Italian.)

IF ANYONE/ G2

PAUL POTTS

Star-studded sendoff

MERV GRIFFIN in May 2007 file photo. AFP

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—MERV Griffin, who entertained generations as a singer, talk-show host and the creator of such TV game shows as "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune," was fondly remembered by Hollywood stars at his funeral.

Among the mourners Friday were former US first lady Nancy Reagan, game show hosts Pat Sajak, Vanna White and Alex Trebek, actor Dick Van Dyke and Griffin's son, Anthony, and his family.

Griffin was 82 when he died Sunday of prostate cancer.

AP

ACTRESS Bo Derek REUTERS

ALEX TREBECK of "Jeopardy." REUTERS

FORMER first lady Nancy Reagan leaves the funeral. REUTERS

RYAN SEACREST, left, Portia de Rossi and Ellen DeGeneres. REUTERS

VANNA WHITE REUTERS

MERV'S son Tony, right, with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver. REUTERS

ACTOR Dick Van Dyke and actor-producer Carl Reiner. REUTERS

1st all-Saudi music video

And the unusual message is: You can be cool and devout

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—The Arab world's hugely popular music video industry often features sexy performers in revealing clothes crooning about love.

But the first clip to be fully produced in Saudi Arabia has a message of a different kind: You can be cool and devout.

The video is unusual, made in a country where the religious establishment considers music un-Islamic and bans it in public places. And the main cast includes a Saudi woman, something rare in a work produced inside the kingdom.

But in a sign of Saudi impatience with the restrictions, "Malak Ghair Allah (You Only Have God to Count On)" was a hit when it was launched at a popular mall in the western seaport of Jeddah last week. Hundreds of people showed up to watch it on a giant screen.

Tears

"People wouldn't stop clapping. Some had tears in their eyes," Kaswara al-Khatib, the director, told The Associated Press.

The video is expected to air on most of the Middle East's more than 30 music satellite TV channels this week. Despite fears among the Saudi clergy over the corrupting influence of music videos, the clip had implicit government approval. The credits thank "those who helped make this work a success," including the Information Ministry.

"You Only Have God to Count On" uses upbeat music to tell the story of a successful man who had strayed from the path of true Islam. He smokes, flirts with women even though he's engaged and doesn't join his colleagues at work in performing the five daily Muslim prayers.

DIRECTOR Kaswara al-Khatib, right, works on the music video "You Only Have God to Count On." AP

The star

Things slowly start to go bad: he has a flat tire and problems at work and his fiancé leaves him when she sees him talking to another woman. He then has a serious accident while recklessly driving his motorcycle. After he recovers, the man starts to pray, stops smoking, wins back his fiancé and excels at work.

Significantly, the man, played by Salah Abul-Jadayel, a tall, fit third-year medical student sporting a hip goatee, doesn't grow the big, bushy beard favored by fundamentalist Muslims. He still wears T-shirts and jeans and sticks to his old friends, including a man who favors the much-frowned-upon ponytails.

"I wanted the youths to understand that it's not the looks that count. It's what inside that matters," al-Khatib said. "The video also has this message: Don't give up and think, 'I sinned, therefore I'm going to hell.' Think that there's a God and he is always there to help you."

Al-Khatib, 37, who heads an advertising agency, has previously produced music videos, but this is the first that is an all-Saudi work. *AP*

Rock band tries to heal Kashmir youth's wounds

SRINAGAR, INDIA—THE SOUND OF A new rock band is soothing Kashmir, which has been blighted by years of violence and a ban on entertainment by separatist Muslim guerrillas.

In a region where the boom of guns and bombs has drowned out all sounds for almost 20 years, a cacophony of melodies from guitar, drums and electric keyboards is now sweeping Kashmir's war-weary youngsters with a message of love and peace.

"Immersion," a five-member rock band that also includes a woman, says the purpose of its music is to try to erase the scars and trauma of young Kashmiris.

"They have suffered a lot and they are hungry for entertainment," Amit Wanchoo, the band's 28-year-old lyricist, told Reuters. "We are trying to heal their wounds."

The band initially faced threats, but accompanying a fall in violence now more people attend their shows. Last month, hundreds of youths swayed to the band's music. One of the songs said: "We pray to God for a soothing rain of happiness."

Encouraged by the response, the multilingual band—which performs in English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi—hopes to turn professional soon. The band members now hold shows in between doing odd jobs.

King Paul, lead guitarist, has a favorite song—"Will change the picture of the world, we the youngsters of Kashmir."

Reuters

SOUTH BORDER

South Border front liners quit

FROM JAY, PAUL, BUTCH, Rick and Tata of South Border, we received an e-mail announcing that front liners Duncan Ramos and Vince Alaras have quit the group. We reprint relevant parts here:

"This year, South Border celebrated its 14th year anniversary and we ... extend our utmost gratitude to those who have been by our side from the day we released our very first album in 1996.

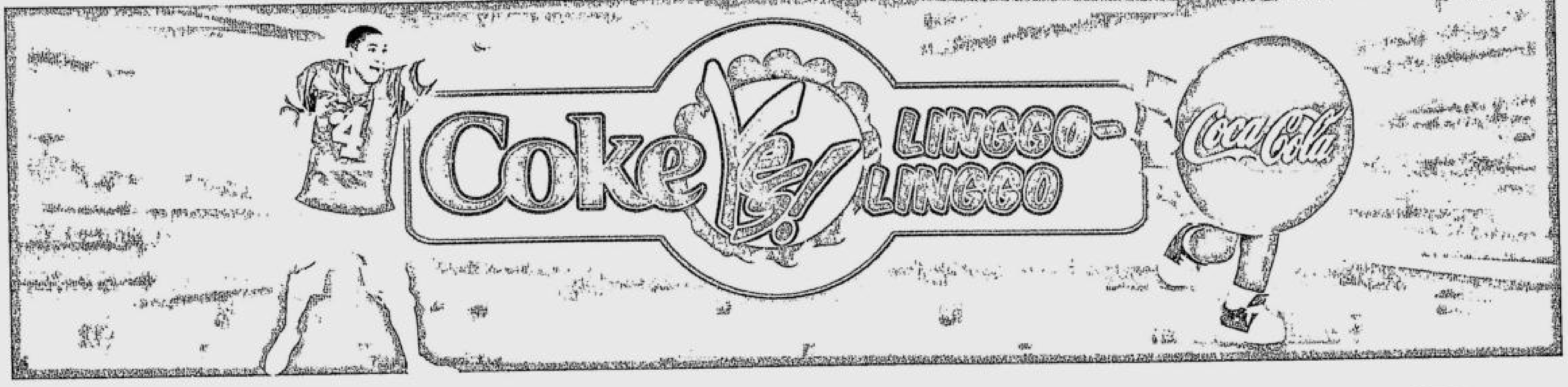
"Everything does happen for a reason—and [thus] we announce the departure of Duncan Ramos and Vince Alaras as front liners.

"The separation was not an ugly one. We [all] remain friends and hold one another in great esteem. Our creative minds have merely ceased to merge as one.

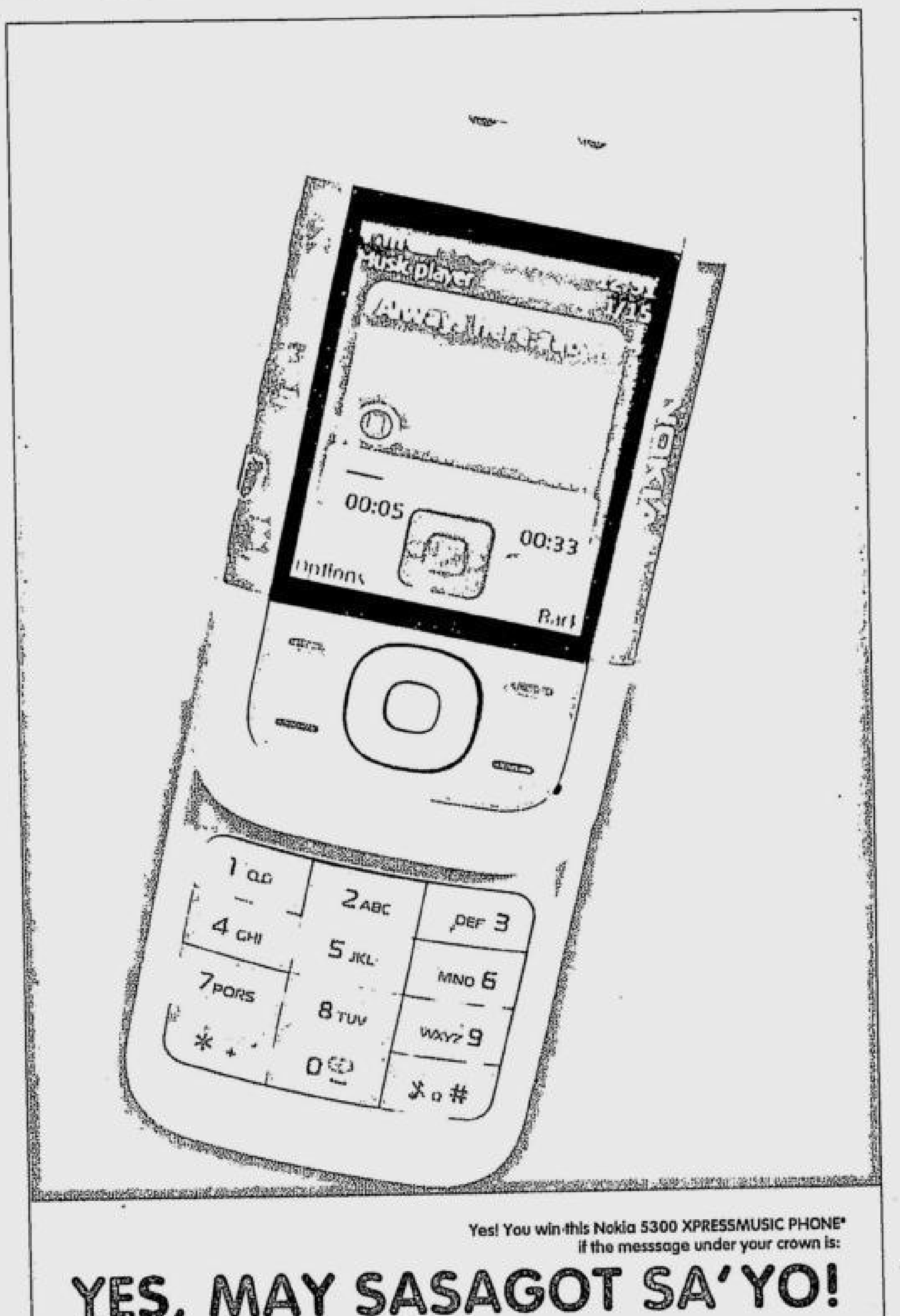
"Duncan and Vince have decided to move on. We thank them for their contributions and we will miss performing with them onstage. We have decided to take our creative energies to a [different] direction.

"We look forward to new and exciting things ahead. We are currently finishing [a new] album due for release [late] this year or early next year, [apart from] concerts and other activities. Things are at full speed ahead. Feel free to check [for] updates via www.southborder.net or www.myspace.com/southbordermusic. Thanks again."

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)


Coke Yes! LINGGO-LINGGO
Coca-Cola

CELLPHONES, NO. 1 TARGET OF "YES-YES-YO" GANG!


Music player
00:05
00:33
Options
Back
1
2 ABC
DEF 3
4 GHI
5 JKL
MNO 6
7 PQRS
8 TUV
WXYZ 9
*
0
#

Yes! You win this Nokia 5300 XPRESSMUSIC PHONE*
if the message under your crown is:

YES, MAY SASAGOT SA'YO!

*All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives.

Is it your chance to say Yes! to a NOKIA 5300 XPRESS MUSIC PHONE this week? If the message under your Coke crown is '**YES, MAY SASAGOT SA'YO!**', then go ahead, say Yes! to a brand-new CELLPHONE right now!

But if you're holding a non-winning crown, just keep those YESes and never ever say no! Because every week, there is a different prize up for grabs. You never know, next week might be your Yes! week.

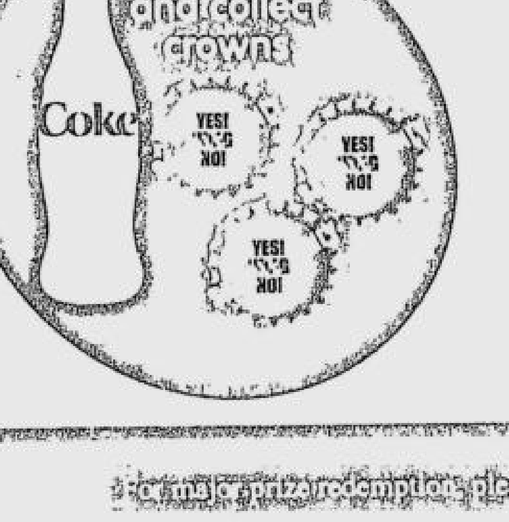
So just buy Coke, look under the crown for the 'Yes!' message and wait for the announcement of the winning message of the week on GMA and ABS-CBN at 5:30 PM daily, and on this page every Monday. If the 'Yes!' messages match, then Yes! you're a winner!

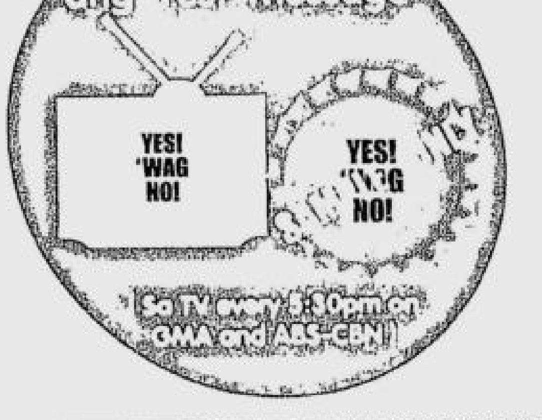
Yes! You can also win instantly!

Millions of Jollibee meals with Coke (1-pc. Chickenjoy Meal, Jollibee Spaghetti Meal or Regular Yum Meal) under the crown!

It's so easy to join!

Follow these three easy steps for a chance to say Yes! to different prizes weekly.


Drink Coke and collect crowns
Coke
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!


Kung pareho ang 'Yes!' Message
YES! 'WAG NO!
YES! 'WAG NO!
So TV every 5:30pm on GMA and ABS-CBN!

For major prize redemption, please call the Coca-Cola hotline: 813-2653 / 813-COKE (GMA) or 1-800-1-888-2653 / 1-800-1-888-COKE (Provincial areas)
Jollibee meals can be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

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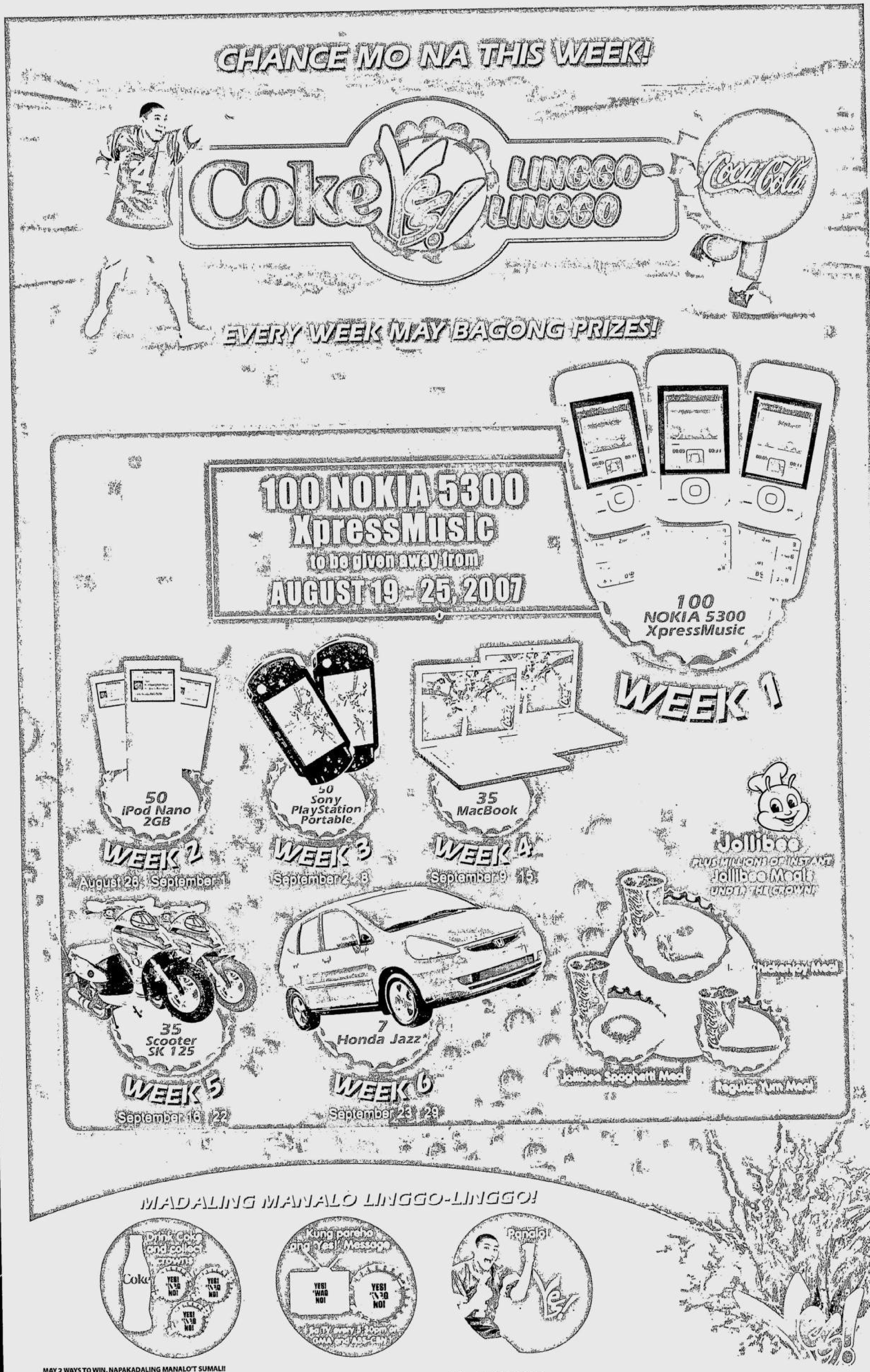
CHANCE MO NA THIS WEEK!
Coke Yes! LINGGO-LINGGO
Coca-Cola
EVERY WEEK MAY BAGONG PRIZES!
100 NOKIA 5300 XpressMusic to be given away from AUGUST 19 - 25, 2007
100 NOKIA 5300 XpressMusic
WEEK 1
50 iPod Nano 2GB
WEEK 2
August 26 - September 1
50 Sony PlayStation Portable
WEEK 3
September 2 - 8
35 MacBook
WEEK 4
September 9 - 15
Jollibee
PLUS MILLIONS OF INSTANT Jollibee Meals UNDER THE CROWN!
35 Scooter SK 125
WEEK 5
September 16 - 22
7 Honda Jazz*
WEEK 6
September 23 - 29
Jollibee Spaghetti Meal
Regular Yum Meal
MADALING MANALO LINGGO-LINGGO!
Drink Coke and collect crowns
Coke
YES! 'WAG NO!
Kung pareho ang 'Yes!' Message
YES! 'WAG NO!
Panalo!
Yes!

MAY 2 WAYS TO WIN. NAPAKADALING MANALO'T SUMALI!

A. WEEKLY MAJOR PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns.
2. Look under the crown to see the 'Yes!' Message.
3. Watch for the announcements of the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week on GMA and ABS-CBN at 5:30pm daily, and on the Philippine Daily Inquirer & Inquirer Libre every Monday.
4. If the winning 'Yes!' Message of the week matches the message under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding weekly prize.
5. For instructions on how to claim the major weekly prizes, call the Coca-Cola Hotlines:

GMA	813-2653 / (813- COKE)
Provincial Areas	1-800-1-888 2653 / (1-800-1-888-COKE)

B. INSTANT JOLLIBEE FOOD PRIZES

1. Buy any participating Coke products (Coke, Sprite or Royal 8oz or 12oz) with specially-marked 'Yes!' Crowns, for a chance to win Jollibee food items instantly.
2. Look for the 'Yes!' Message under the crown.
3. If the Jollibee instant win message is under the crown, consumer wins the corresponding prize.
4. Winning crowns may be presented for verification and prizes may be claimed at any Jollibee outlet nationwide.

This is a nationwide promotion.
All prizes over P10,000 are tax free.
All winning crowns have security markings and are subject to verification and authentication by Coca-Cola representatives.
Employees of TCCEC, CCBP, Jollibee Foods Corporation, their advertising agencies, BFAD and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity as well as employees of TCCEC's and CCBP's subsidiaries, affiliates and service providers are disqualified from joining this promotion. Third party suppliers and their employees are also disqualified.
Decisions made by Coca-Cola are final.

Promo period is from August 19 to September 29, 2007.
Deadline of claiming prizes is on November 29, 2007.
*Photo may vary from actual unit.

Royal

Jollibee HONDA NOKIA POWER MAC

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0578 series of 2007.

Coca-Cola RIDE to FAME
Yes! to your dreams!

The search for the Next total Performer continues every SUNDAY after SOP on GMA

Coca-Cola
RIDE to FAME
GMA

Yes!

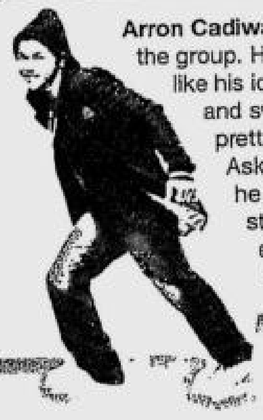
Buhay Coke Buksan Mo

www.igma.tv/ridetofame
text COKE YES to 4827

12 Contestants Take the Fast Lane to Stardom

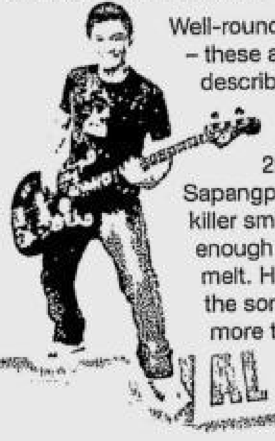
COCA-COLA and GMA present the biggest musical reality search for the next total performer COCA-COLA Ride to Fame: Yes to Your Dreams!

Who among the 12 finalists will make it to the top? Who among them has every right to be called the next total performer? Meet the contestants who said Yes to their dreams.



Arron Cadiwas is the RnB man of the group. He aspires to become like his idol Jay-R. Arron's slick and swift styles make him the pretty boy of the group. Ask him to dance and he will give you his killer steps. Will he move you enough to send him to the top?

ARRON

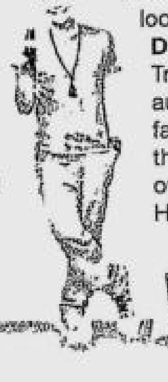


Well-rounded and highly versatile – these are the words that describe **Al Galura**. Alchris was named Best Actor in Cinemalaya 2006 movie "Batad ng Sapangpalay". Add to this, Al's killer smile and athletic body is enough to make any girl's heart melt. He loves 60's music and the songs of Beatles. He is truly more than meets the eye!

AL

He can always pass of as Johnny Bravo's cuter version: his name is **Giu Comia**. His fashion sense and music choice are in perfect contrast. While his style is distinctly retro his taste for music isn't; he goes for standard music. Giu croons like Michael Buble. Watch out for this star in the making.

GIU



In contrast to his boy-next-door looks, rock and roll is **Daryl Lagos**' life. This Dennis Trillo-looker charms his audience by singing like his favorite rocker idols. Add to this, he can also compose his own songs and play the guitar. He is all talent rolled into one.

DARYL

Influenced by Mr. Pure Energy himself, **Carl Guevarra** promises to bring power in every performance. He sings, dances, and plays the piano like his idol Gary V. The 19 year old Bulakeño is taking up Communication Arts in UP Baguio. Big things come indeed in small packages.

CARL

Half-Filipino, half-Chinese **Lex Uy** is the musical genius from Davao City. Having been influenced by his mom (a Music major), Lex made it a point to use his talents to good use. He sings and dances for a living in Davao. He also plays the guitar on his spare time. Will this whole experience be worth the trip?

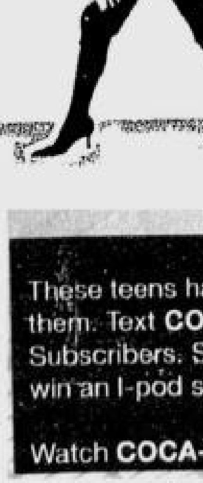
LEX

Ava Jane Jugueta is a live mannequin. But despite her sweet innocent look, she packs in a lot of talent. Aside from her singing and dancing skills, Ava can also play the guitar and even compose her own music! Is she picture-perfect enough to become the next total performer?

AVA

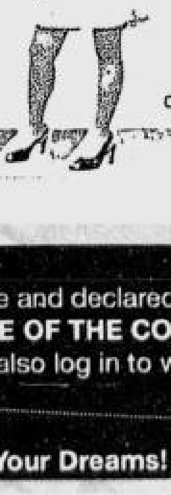
Osan Reodica is a Clothing Technology in UP Diliman. She puts her flair for fashion to good use to further express her artistic side. Her pretty looks, fashion panache, singing and dancing abilities are what she will use to become the next total performer. Watch out for her.

OSAN



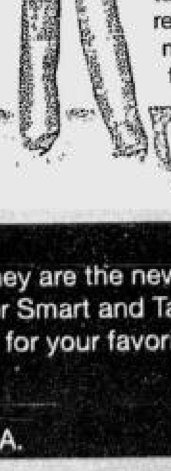
Coming from cool Baguio is **Pamela Bondoc**. Pam is as cool as her hometown when it comes to singing and dancing. Her dance influence is no less than Billy Crawford. Add to this is her guitar skills. No wonder why she is Baguio's coolest bet for this search!

PAM



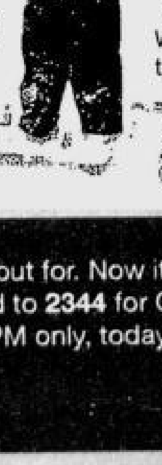
Qwyncy Siclot is more than just a pretty face. Aside from being a Nursing major at the University of San Carlos in Cebu, her dynamite of a singing voice is what she will use to make it to the top. Just watch her sing and you will definitely fall for her. This chanteuse from the South will definitely pose a threat to competition.

QWYNCY



Captivating smile, delightful dance moves and outstanding talent to play the guitars, **Francesca** has got what it takes to become a star. If she uses her talent for singing, dancing and playing the guitar to attract the enemy, then she really is one femme fatale in the making. Davao must be proud to have her.

CHESKA



Name whatever instrument you have you are sure that this contestant from Caloocan City can play it. Aptly named, **Musique Cabaltesa** is a true blue performer. She bangs the drums with pizzazz, strums the guitar like an expert, and tinkers with the keyboards effortlessly. Watch out for this triple threat in the coming weeks.

MUSIQUE

These teens have followed their heart's desire and declared YES to follow their dreams. They are the new breed of idols to watch out for. Now it's time for us to support them. Text **COKE**<space>**YES**<space>**NAME OF THE CONTESTANT** and send to **367** for Smart and Talk'n Text Subscribers and to **2344** for Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Subscribers. Standard rates apply. You may also log in to www.igma.tv/ridetofame to vote for your favorite. Voting is open until 3PM only, today. Vote now for a chance to win an I-pod shuffle!

Watch **COCA-COLA Ride to Fame: Yes to Your Dreams!** every Sunday after SOP at GMA.

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Saya ng family bonding
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